FRIDAY
January 30, 2026

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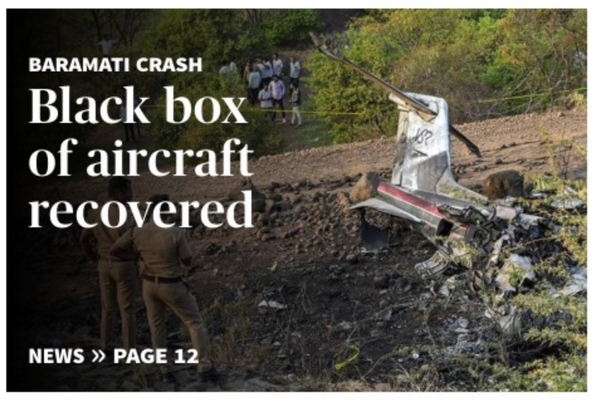
POLL IN SIGHT

LDF's populist thrust marks Kerala Budget

SOUTH » PAGE 9



BARAMATI CRASH

Black box of aircraft recovered

NEWS » PAGE 12

'LOGICAL DISCREPANCIES'

EC told to display list of excluded T.N. voters

NEWS » PAGE 12

PARLEY

Will removing curbs on Chinese FDI help India?

How will inflows affect global supply chains?

OPINION » PAGE 11

SEALING IT IN STYLE

Harris' all-round show puts RCB in the final

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

K.J. George denies rumours of resignation

BENGALURU
Energy Minister K.J. George on Thursday dismissed rumours of his resignation, which had surfaced following allegations of interference in his Department by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra, an MLC. » PAGE 8

Leadership tussle casts shadow on Apex Bank polls

BENGALURU
After the logjam in KMF, Apex Bank seems to have become the latest casualty in the leadership tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar. » PAGE 8

Actor pushes for Palestinian films at BIFFes

BENGALURU
Actor Prakash Raj urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take a stand against the Centre's move and screen Palestinian films at BIFFes. » PAGE 5

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

Economic Survey predicts bright India, increasingly darker world

- FY26 Survey raises medium-term growth outlook to 7% from 6.5%
- Survey tabled in Parliament puts FY27 growth range at 6.8%-7.2%
- Grim outlook for global economy could pose risks to India, it says

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Economic Survey 2025-26 on Thursday painted a relatively rosy picture of India's domestic growth outlook, raising the country's medium-term forecast to 7% from the earlier estimate of 6.5%.

However, it simultaneously outlined a relatively grim outlook for the global economy, estimating a 10%-20% chance of a crisis worse than the global financial crisis of 2008 unfolding in 2026. Even its best-case scenario is a continuation of conditions as they were in 2025, but "increasingly less secure and more fragile".

The Survey, authored by Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran and tabled in Parliament by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, went on to say that each of its three probabilistic scenarios for the globe could pose risks to India.

For India, the key drivers of a higher medium-term growth outlook are the growth of capital, improved labour participation, and greater efficiency in the deployment of these two factors of production.

Risk analysis

The Economic Survey outlined three scenarios for the world economy that could unfold in 2026

Spelling out strategy: Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran addressing the media in New Delhi on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

SCENARIO 1
The best-case
Probability:
40%–45%

- Described as **"business as in 2025,"** where global conditions remain integrated but become less secure
- Existing frictions do not lead to a total collapse, but create **volatility**
- Minor shocks will **require governments to intervene** to stabilise market expectations
- High levels of **policy uncertainty** will persist

SCENARIO 2
Multipolar breakdown
Probability:
40%–45%

- **Systemic breakdown** is no longer just a "tail risk"
- Strategic rivalry prevails and the **Russia–Ukraine conflict** remains unresolved
- Trade becomes explicitly coercive, leading to a **proliferation of sanctions** and counter-measures
- **Supply chains are realigned** under political pressure

SCENARIO 3
The worst-case
Probability:
10%–20%

- A major **correction in AI-infrastructure** investments occur
- The correction triggers intense **risk aversion**
- If this coincides with geopolitical escalation, it could **weaken capital flows** and contract global liquidity
- The macroeconomic fallout could be **worse than the 2008 global financial crisis**

Growth upgrade

For the current financial year 2025-26, the Survey highlighted the government's estimate of 7.4% growth, adding that its 'nowcast' estimate for growth in Q3 (October-December 2025) stood at 7%. For 2026-27, the Survey estimates a growth rate range of 6.8%-7.2%.

The Survey noted that, in the 2022-23 edition, it had estimated India's medium-term growth to be 6.5%, which could rise to 7%-8% only if sustained reforms were conducted.

"Over the past three years, reform momentum has strengthened across several areas relevant for medium-term growth," it said. "Manufacturing-oriented initiatives, such as the production-linked incentive schemes, FDI liberalisation, and logistics reforms, have supported capacity creation."

These measures, it added, were further bolstered by sustained public investment in physical and digital infrastructure, the simplification of tax laws, and measures targeted at the MSMEs that have sought to ease credit constraints. "These reforms have coincided with stronger corporate and financial sector balance sheets, rising formalisation of employment, and continued improvements in tax administration," the Survey added. "Together, these developments make a persuasive case that India's potential growth has risen to around 7% over the medium term."

The Survey outlined three scenarios for the world that could unfold in 2026. The worst of these, the macroeconomic consequences of which "could be worse than those of the 2008 global financial crisis", was assigned a probability of 10%-20%.

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» PAGE 12
MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGES 13, 14, & 15

SC stays 2026 UGC campus equity rules, calls it 'too sweeping'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Amid widespread protests, the Supreme Court on Thursday kept in abeyance the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, which allegedly recognises only caste-based discrimination committed against Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Communities within educational campuses while failing to protect upper castes or general category students.

"The 2026 Regulations have sweeping consequences which will divide the society," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a Bench comprising Justice Joymalya Bagchi, observed.

The top court agreed that the 2026 Regulations required a closer examination. It said, for the time being, the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2012 would continue to be in force.

Senior advocate Indira Jaising and advocate Prasanna S. intervened against the stay order. Keeping the regulations in abeyance was akin to "calling a fully abled person as disabled,"

> The 2026 Regulations have sweeping consequences which will divide the society... are we going for a regressive policy now?
>
> **SURYA KANT**
> Chief Justice of India

they said . "After whatever we have gained in the past 75 years towards forging a casteless society, are we going for a regressive policy now," the Chief Justice asked.

Notice issued

The court also issued notice to the Union government and the UGC on the petitions specifically challenging Regulation 3(c) of the 2026 Regulations, which defined 'caste-based discrimination' "only on the basis of caste or tribe against the members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes."

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LEADERS WELCOME STAY
» PAGE 12

Yettinahole: CAG flags irregularities in tendering, financial management

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an embarrassment to the State government, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has flagged serious deficiencies in the tendering processes and financial management in the Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water Project in Hassan district, being implemented at a total cost of ₹23,251.66 crore for a decade now.

The CAG report, tabled in the Assembly on Thursday, revealed that nearly 80% of the project works were awarded to contractors without assessing their financial capacity, bid capacity, or work experience. It noted that 67% of the works, valued at ₹14,805.80 crore, were awarded to just seven contractors, with a single contractor securing 11 contracts worth ₹5,216.58 crore. This concentration of contracts posed a significant risk to timely completion of the project, it said.

The audit pointed out instances of undue financial favour to contractors, including non-recovery of excess costs of pipe materials, extra payments for works already covered under turnkey contracts, premature release of retention money and performance security, irregular advance payments for pipe supply, and failure to recover benefits accrued to contractors due to the implementation of GST.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

India 'appreciates' U.S. addressing Gaza crisis

Press Trust of India
UNITED NATIONS

India has voiced appreciation to the U.S. at the UN Security Council (UNSC) for addressing the "long-standing" conflict in Gaza.

"India takes note of recent progress with regard to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2803 to end the Gaza conflict. India also takes this opportunity to express appreciation to the United States in addressing this long-standing issue," Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, said on Wednesday.

Noting that India was the first non-Arab country to recognise the state of Palestine in 1988, Mr. Harish said that India has consistently supported a sovereign, independent, and viable state of Palestine living in peace with Israel.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Gujarat farmer repels claw attack, faces handcuffs

The 60-year-old fought off a leopard with a sickle and a spear after it pounced on him and his son on their wheat farm, sustaining severe injuries; forest officials launch investigation and register case under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

A tense fight for survival unfolded on the outskirts of Gangda village in Gir Somnath district of Gujarat late on Wednesday evening, when a 60-year-old farmer fought off a leopard with a sickle and a spear after the predator pounced on him and his son.

The farmer, Babu Naranbhai Vaja, and his 27-year-old son, Shardul, sustained severe injuries before killing the leopard near their home on a wheat farm.

ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYADIP SINHA

The Jasadhar Range Forest Officer, L.B. Bharwad, told *The Hindu* that a case had been registered against Mr. Vaja under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, for killing the animal.

Mr. Bharwad said the incident took place while Mr. Vaja was sleeping on the verandah of his home.

"We are investigating whether the leopard attacked the farmer and his son, or whether the animal was merely passing through their field and they, out of fear, hurled sticks at it, prompting the leopard to attack them in self-defence," he said.

According to Mr. Vaja, the leopard bit his arm and began dragging him away.

Hearing his cries, his son rushed out of the house, but the animal attacked him as well.

Mr. Vaja said he managed to grab tools kept on the verandah and struck the leopard, killing it in the process. "After the leopard died, we informed the forest officials," he said.

Samson — extraordinarily gifted, frustratingly inconsistent

GETTY IMAGES

He hasn't had a single score of substance in the ongoing series against the Kiwis; Kishan's own sustained telling touch, coupled with the Kerala batter's fumbling returns, have opened up a race that didn't seem possible even a month back

R. Kaushik

An enigma? A mystery? An unfathomable riddle, an uncrackable puzzle?

Sanju Samson is all this and more. He is extraordinarily gifted, yet frustratingly inconsistent. When he gets going, he makes batting look the easiest proposition in the world but especially of late, he has struggled to make any sort of impact.

So dangerously close to becoming the perennial nearly man of Indian cricket, the muscular right-hander from Kerala finally seemed to be coming into his own with a string of breakout knocks in Twenty20 Internationals. Between October and November 2024, Samson unleashed three silken centuries in five innings, at home against Bangladesh and away in South Africa, to finally get the monkey off his back.

But with Samson, nothing has been straightforward ever, so why should it be any different this time around?

Struggles against pace

Just as he was beginning to find his calling as an opener came five cheap dismissals against England at home, in January 2025. That he managed only 51 runs in that series with a highest of 26 was worrying in itself, but even more concerning was the manner of his dismissals. On each instance, he was caught on the pull, against Jofra Archer and Mark Wood mainly, suggesting that even on docile surfaces, the short ball at great pace was a bit of an Achilles' heel.

But that isn't uncommon, is it? No batter in his right mind and who is nothing if not truthful will state with any honesty that he relishes the bouncer-barrage, that he is entirely at home when his throat and head are in the firing line. At least Samson knew what the problem area was, what he needed to work on; he and the think-tank should also have taken encouragement from the fact that there aren't too many bowlers in the world in the same pace league as Archer and Wood who are representing their countries in 20-over internationals.

Between the end of that England series – Samson broke his finger in the final game in Mumbai, which forced him to play the early IPL matches for Rajasthan Royals as a pure batter - and the start of September, Samson sat on the outer as India mounted a grand, unbeaten campaign at the 50-over Champions Trophy in March and came away from England with honours shared 2-2 in Shubman Gill's first outing as the new Test skipper. Gill led from the front admirably, smashing numerous records on his way to 754 breathtaking runs, whose impact stretched far beyond merely keeping the Indian flag flying in England.

With Rohit Sharma having retired from Test cricket in May - which paved the way for Gill's installation as the next leader - the decision-makers felt the time was ripe to remove the Mumbaikar from the captaincy of the 50-over side as well. Even though the next ODI World Cup was some 25 months at the time, Ajit Agarkar's selection panel bit the bullet in October, elevating Gill to the captaincy of the longer short-ball format while resurrecting his T20I career, which had gone into cold storage for more than a year. By not just bringing him back into the T20I setup but also appointing him Suryakumar Yadav's deputy, the selectors had left the leadership group, of which Gill was an integral part, with no option but to play the Punjab batter in the T20I XI. While Gill stuttered and stumbled and was eventually put out of his misery when he was dropped from the 15 that will start the defence of India's T20 World Cup crown in a week's time, his original inclusion in the 20-over playing XI meant Samson had to be sacrificed at the top of the order.

And so, at the Asia Cup in the Emirates in September, which was the vehicle for Gill's comeback to the format, Samson was dropped down the order. It's not as if Samson was a stranger to batting in the middle order - on his T20I debut itself in July 2015, he slotted in at No. 7 - but his most influential hands, for country and franchise, had come at the top of the order. By sacrificing him to accommodate Gill - Abhishek Sharma had already made himself indispensable as an opener by then - the message to Samson seemed clear: If you entertain ambitions of continuing to represent the country, develop the skills required to come good against an older ball, with fewer overs left in the innings.

Samson didn't seem at home in the middle-order, though in his first hit at the Asia Cup, he made 56 against Oman in Abu Dhabi. It was a patchy, scratchy, almost laborious hand; the lack of pace in the Oman bowling didn't help, but early indications were that the Samson experiment in the middle-order wasn't going to work.

Losing his spot

Unsurprisingly, as he continued to struggle to come to grips with his new role, he lost his place to Jitesh Sharma, clearly the more acknowledged and pedigreed end-overs strike-force. It seemed oh-so-unfair, especially because Gill was hardly setting the world afire as an opener. Perhaps out of stubborn mule-headedness, or because they still believed Gill was one hit away from rediscovering his mojo, India's selectors kept investing in the younger man from Punjab until they could no longer afford to do so.

And so, for the five-match series against New Zealand, India's last tango before the World Cup, Gill was dumped from the larger squad and Samson picked, as opening partner to Abhishek. The wheel had come a full circle; Samson and Ishan Kishan, the little bundle of electric energy from Jharkhand, were selected as the two designated wicketkeeper-batters in the World Cup 15, with the clear message that India would open with one of them and Abhishek in the interest of team balance at the tournament.

Having gone from the middle-order to the top, returned to the middle-order and then been pushed back up to the top, all in the space of 18 months, Samson hasn't had a single score of substance against the Kiwis. Four knocks have yielded a frugal 40 runs; in that is one golden duck (it ought to have been two had Devon Conway not put him down off the first ball of India's chase of 209 in the second match in Raipur) and a best of 24 on Wednesday when, in Visakhapatnam, Samson showed fluency for the first time in a long while.

While Samson's graph has shown an alarming downslide, Kishan has been emphatically making his case after being given an unexpected opportunity to showcase his wares. It was an unspoken (in public) understanding that Samson would be the first-choice stumper and Kishan his understudy at the start of the World Cup, at the very least, when the squad was named five weeks back. But a medical condition that necessitated surgery put Tilak Varma out of commission before the Kiwi bash, which in a roundabout sort of way accorded the team management the chance to give Kishan international game-time before the World Cup.

A force of nature

Kishan is a force of nature, who knows no fear, who doesn't have a single negative bone in his body. After a tepid start in Nagpur, he tore the Kiwis to shreds in Raipur on his way to a 21-ball half-century. He again made a blazing contribution in the next outing in Guwahati when India hunted down 154 with an incredible 60 deliveries to spare. The contrast in fortunes, approach and outcome wasn't lost on anyone watching. Samson needed to pull up his socks immediately if the captain-coach combine of Suryakumar and Gautam Gambhir, who have incessantly backed him despite yo-yoing him around, were not to lose patience.

Now, the 31-year-old has just one more meaningful opportunity to show that the faith invested in him is not misplaced.

Sunday in Thiruvananthapuram beckons; a full house will be unabashedly cheering for the son of the soil to come good so that he stays in the hunt to start the World Cup against United States in Mumbai on February 7. Kishan missed the defeat in Visakhapatnam with a 'niggle' - how annoying that injuries have to be accorded the status of national secrets not to be divulged - and one isn't sure how serious the said injury is. But irrespective of whether the little left-hander is fit or not, it is more or less certain that Samson will continue to feature in the playing group. It's up to Samson now to stand up and be counted. Another failure will push him to the very brink.

When the World Cup squad was announced, Suryakumar broke from recent convention and admitted that the left-right combination was overrated, which would indicate that India aren't averse to opening with two left-handers, Abhishek and Kishan, should the need arise. There is nothing to choose between Samson and Kishan when it comes to glovework, even if the former has shown himself to be prone to lapses in concentration and silly errors. At the end of the day, form will dictate which one of them gets the nod, which in itself is a win for Kishan, who wasn't in the scheme of things until very recently when India were looking at their wicketkeeper to play in the middle order.

Through sheer weight of performances in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, including in the final when he made a title-winning century for Jharkhand, Kishan has forced the deciding authorities to resurrect an international career that seemed to have hit a roadblock following his return home from South Africa in the middle of a long tour in December 2023 citing the need for a break from the game. His own sustained telling touch, coupled with Samson's fumbling returns, have opened up a race that didn't seem possible even a month back.

Now, the pressure is on the older, more experienced and more battle-worn protagonist to respond. Sunday will be a huge test of Samson's skills, undoubtedly, but also his character and resolve.

The whole cricket-invested country will be watching with interest, millions egging the hometown hero on with so much at stake in what essentially is a dead rubber.

THE GIST

- When he gets going, Samson makes batting look the easiest proposition in the world
- He didn't seem at home in the middle-order, though in his first hit at the Asia Cup, he made 56 against Oman in Abu Dhabi. It was a patchy, scratchy, almost laborious hand
- While Samson's graph has shown an alarming downslide, Kishan has been emphatically making his case after being given an unexpected opportunity to showcase his wares

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Raichur Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

CORRIGENDUM - 1

The tender has published in this newspaper on 14.08.2025 with Ref. No.: **KPCL/2025-26/OW/WORKINDENT3854 dtd.:09.01.2026,** for "Providing pavement concrete at stock pile-1 (Area-1 of CCY-2 from 0.00 mts. to 350.00 mts.) in CHP area at RTPS". The following modifications have been made in the tender notification.

Modified Clause :
PQR-5 is modified as : This clause is Exempted as per the GOK order No. ಆಇ263 ವೆಚ್ಚ-12/2022 Dated 11.05.2022 upto Rs. 300 Lakhs works.

Further details can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer(RTM), RTPS, Shakthinagar-584170, Raichur Dist.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ DISTRICT HOSPITAL, BALLARI.
ಎಸ್‌ಟಿಡಿ–08392, ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಶಸ್ತ್ರಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಕರು–274255 ಸ.ಆ.ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ–274254
bellaryds@gmail.com

e-TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. DHB/EQUIP-DMF/TEND/01/2024-25/Call-3, DATED: 27.01.2026

RE-TENDERNOTIFICATION

The Tenders are re invited from eligible Bidders for supply of ENDOSCOPIC 4K IMAGING SYSTEM FOR ENT-01 No & MICRO LARYNGOSCOPY (MLS) INSTRUMENTS-01 SET to ENT Dept.for total amount of Rs.79.74 Lakhs under DMF Fund through KPPP portal http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in The other details may obtain at the Office & above said website.

Sd/- District Surgeon, District Hospital, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/941/KSMCA/2025-26

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti- 586201.
E-mail:dam_division@rediffmail.com
No: KBJNL/DDA/DB/TND/2025-26/2798 Dated:27.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore the undersigned invites tender on Percentage basis & Service tenders from from the eligible contractors for the work indents of **Two Cover** – (1) I .No. SE0260 – 72.22 Lakhs, (2) I .No. 2710- 10.14 Lakhs, **The contractor can have access and submit e-tender from 28.01.2026 to 13.02.2026 up to 5-00 PM. Cover-I (Technical Bid for I.No. SE0260 & Financial Bid for 2710,) opened on Dt: 17.02.2026 at 11-00AM & Financial Bid I.No. SE0260, will be opened on 20.02.2026 at 11-00AM** at the Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti. For clarifications office of the undersigned may be contacted during office hours (Phone No. 08426-281027). Further information about electronic tendering can be had from kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/642/ಕೆಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025–26
Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, Dam Safety Unit-2, Almatti

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA
No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-1,2:Tender-57:2025-26: Dated:- 28.01.2026

SHOR TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the works pertaining to, Chitradurga, Challakere and Hosadurga Taluk in Chitradurga District through KPPP Portal as per standard Tender documents rules as follows.
Head of Account:- 4059-80-051-0-60-132 CMIDP Works
Estimated Cost :- Minimum Rs. 250.00 lakhs and Maximum 1000.00 lakhs. No. of Works:- 12
Tender dates are as mentioned below:
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 13-02-2026 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Tenders 16-02-2026 Time: 11.00
Further details can be obtained from this office and helpline Numbers 080-22230960 and 080-22234115.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/633/2025-26
Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD, Chitradurga.

Command Area Development Authority
CAUVERY BASIN PROJECT-MYSURU
O/o Executive Enngineer, No.02 Division, CADA, CBP Vijayanagara 1st Stage, Mysuru-17
Ph. No: 0821-2414090, email-eecada2mysore@gmail.com

No: EE/CADA2/Mys/T-25/2025-26 **Date:** 29.01.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP Portal only)

On behalf of the Administrator, CADA, CBP, Mysore. The Executive Engineer, CADA No.2 Division, CBP, Mysuru has invited tender in Two Tender Document system for **04 Atchkat Road works in Mysore District** as per Standard Tender Document KW-3 & KW-4 from eligible tenderers through KPPP Portal. Interested bidders may access bidding documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during working hours. The tenderers can download the tender documents from 30.01.2026. The last date for Tender Queries and Clarifications (Through KPPP-Portal) is **04.02.2026 upto 4:00 PM**. The last date for submission of Technical and Financial Bid is **06.02.2026 upto 4:00 PM**. Date of opening of Technical Bid is **07.02.2026**, onwards and Financial Bid will be opened after obtaining approval of Technical Bid from competent Authority. For more Condition & details Visit the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Note: If there are any corrections/ modifications, it will be published only through KPPP Portal.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
DIPR/MYS/1578/SA/2025-26 No.02 Division, CADA, CBP, Mysuru.

KARNATAKA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
"Beej Bhavan", Bellary Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560024.
Ph: 080 - 23415652, 23415656. Fax: 080-23415895
No:KSSC/IT & MIS/4736/2025-26 Date: 29.01.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Tender Notification for supply of 4K UHD Touch Interactive Panel and necessary accessories reg.
Corporation is inviting Expression of Interest from the suppliers for supply of 4K UHD Touch Interactive Panel and Necessary Accessories. The interested suppliers can download the tender documents in e-Procurement portal **on 30.01.2026 at 10.00 A.M. onwards.**
(1) Pre-bid meeting date: **09.02.2026 at 11.30 A.M. (2)** Last date for submission of tenders: **20.02.2026 up to 4.00 P.M. (3)** Date of opening of Technical bids: **23.02.2026 at 11.30 A.M. (4)** Date of opening of Commercial bid: **26.02.2026 at 11.30 A.M. at registered office.**
More information can be obtained from the e-Procurement website at **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Managing Director

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ತಾಲೂಕಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಜೋಯಿಡಾ – 581186
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: **talukahospitaljoida@gmail.com** ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08383–282703
ಸಂ:ತಾಆಜೋ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ/ಹೊರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ/302/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28/01/2026

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ತಾಲೂಕಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಜೋಯಿಡಾದಲ್ಲಿ 2026–27 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಹೊರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಬಾಹ್ಯ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಮೂಲಕ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ "ಡಿ" ಮತ್ತು ನಾನ್–ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಗಳ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಈ ಕುರಿತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂ: 08383–282703 ಕ್ಕೆ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 09:00 ಗಂಟೆ ಯಿಂದ ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 04:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ವರೆಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ವಿವರ: ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' ಮತ್ತು ನಾನ್–ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸಲು, ಪೂರೈಸಬೇಕಾದ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' ನಾನ್‌ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಸೇವೆಯ ನೌಕರರ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 20, ಒಟ್ಟು ಟೆಂಡರ ಮೊತ್ತ: 57,85,560.00, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: 2.5%: 1,44,639.00, ಷರಾ:.....
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೇಳಾ ಪಟ್ಟಿ: ವಿವರ: (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28–01–2026 (2) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಪ್ರಾರಂಭಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29–01–2026 (3) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 27–02–2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ (4) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ: 02–03–2026 ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 3.00 ಕ್ಕೆ (5) ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ಸಮಯ: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಂಗೀಕಾರ ಸಮೀತಿಯ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯ ನಂತರ.
ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 04 ಮತ್ತು 05 ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂದು ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ರಜೆಯೆಂದು ಘೋಷಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಮುಂದಿನ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಆಡಳಿತ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ತಾಲೂಕಾ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಜೋಯಿಡಾ
DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/1004/25-26 dt.29.01.2025

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಉಪ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಛೇರಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ, "ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ಕೆ.ಸಿ.ಪಾರ್ಕ ಎದುರಿಗೆ, ಪಿ.ಬಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಧಾರವಾಡ–580008
ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 0836- 2447092 Moblie No : 9481992501
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : **dcf_dwd@yahoo.co.in**
ಕಡತ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎ2/ಬಿಜಿಟಿ/ ಡಿ.ಡಿ.ಎಫ್/ ಸಿಆರ್–56/2025–26
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27–01–2026.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರ ಅವಗಾಹನೆಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸುವದೇನೆಂದರೆ, 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕ್ಷೀಣಿತ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ **(DDF)** ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಕಲಘಟಗಿ ವಲಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ತುಮರಿಕೊಪ್ಪ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸರ್ವೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : **99, 101, 135, 167, 161, 168, 183, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191** ಮತ್ತು **192** ರಲ್ಲಿನ ಒಟ್ಟು **55** ಹೆ. ಅರಣ್ಯ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಸುತ್ತಲೂ ಆರ್.ಸಿ.ಸಿ ಕಂಬಗಳಿಂದ ಮುಳ್ಳು ತಂತಿ ಬೇಲಿ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ–1999 & ನಿಯಮ 2000 ರಂತೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮೂಲಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡನೇ ದರ್ಜೆಯ & ಅದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಸದರಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **05–02–2026** ರಂದು 16:00 ಗಂಟೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **06–02–2026** ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **07–02–2026** ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– (ಪರಿಮಳ ವಿ. ಎಚ್)
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/1158/2025–26

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division
G.B.A Complex 2nd Floor, Lashkar Hosuru,
Road, Adugodi, Bengaluru - 560 030.
No: EE/BTM/KPPP/11/2025-26 Date: 29-01-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) 1st Call

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division, BSCC, invites tenders on behalf the commissioner, BSCC, Bengaluru from eligible contractors registered in Bengaluru South City Corporation and equivalent registration with KPWD/CPWD or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Additional Improvements of Bridge on the Upstream Side and Outlet No.2 for the Project 20m corridor from BTM Layout to Hosur road along Madiwala Tank Bund Road **Approximate Value of Work ₹. 300.00 Lakhs, EMD: ₹. 4,50,000/-** (Rs.1.00 Lakh shall be paid in the kppp portal and the Balance Amount of Rs.3,50,000/- shall be in the form of Bank Guarantee)

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **12-02-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Availability of RFP documents from **02-02-2026** Onwards (3) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on office of the Chief Engineer, Zone-2, Bengaluru South City Corportion, Begur Main Road, Bommanahalli Zonal Office Bengaluru-68 on **06-02-2026** at **03:00** pm. (4) Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **12-02-2026** upto **4:00** pm. (5) Date of Technical Bid Opening of Tenders is on **13-02-2026** by **4:30** pm. (6) Date of Financial bid opening after approval of technical proposals through kppp

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, BTM Layout Division
Bengaluru South City Corporation

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಕ.ನೀ.ನಿ.ನಿ., ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ. 3 ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ, ತಾ : ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಜಿ : ಧಾರವಾಡ 580023 ಫೋನ್ : 0836–2315225 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ : 2315226 e-mail : eeknnl3byt@gmail.com
ಸಂ.ಕನೀನಿನಿ/ಮಬದವಿ–3/ಎ.ಇ–1/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ/2025–26/1951
ದಿನಾಂಕ:29/01/2026

ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್ ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಂ.3, ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ **4701** ಅಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ನಂಬರಿನ **01** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಶೇಕಡಾವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟಿ ಪದ್ದತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Work Indent No : 3929

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ. **100.00** ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ : ರೂ. **1,70,000/–** ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : **07–02–2026** ರ 4.00 pm ತನಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : **09–02–2026** ರಂದು ಮುಂಜಾನೆ : 11.00 am ರಿಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿವಾರು ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ : **30–01–2026** ರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮುಖೇನ **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : **0836–2315225** ನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಕನೀನಿನಿ, ಮಬದಕಾನಿ ವಿಭಾಗ ನಂ.3
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಧಾ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/1157/2025–26 ಬ್ಯಾಹಟ್ಟಿ

HOSUR CORPORATION
KRISHNAGIRI DISTIRCT
E-TENDERING TENDER NOTICE

Roc.No.03033/2024/E1 **Dated:28.01.2026**

Hosur Corporation invites Bids from eligible Bidders through e-procurement portal for " Providing Strom Water Drain, Improvement to Major Nallah /Primary Drain, Secondary and Tertiary drains for flood hot shots, Rejuvenation of water Bodies, and Development of sponge parks, OSR Sites of Hosur Corporation and Maintenance for the period of 5 years and estimated cost for Operation and maintenance for the period of 5 years " Bidders shall submit their Bids through online e- procurement portal **http:// tntenders.gov.in** up to 03.00 PM (as time in the server clock of the tender portal) on 02.03.2026. The Bids will be opened through online at 03.30 PM on the same day (02.03.2026)

Sl. No	Name of Work	Bid Value (Rs. in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs. in Lakhs)	Period of availability of bid document
1	Providing Strom Water Drain, Improvement to Major Nallah /Primary Drain , Secondary and Tertiary drains for flood hot shots, Rejuvenation of water Bodies, and Development of sponge parks, OSR Sites of Hosur Corporation and Maintenance for the period of 5 years (7 Packages)	26145.00	261.45	30.01.2026 to 02.03.2026 up to 3.00 PM
	Date and time of Bid opening : 02.03.2026 at 3.30 PM			
	Period of Completion : 24 Months			

1. The Bid documents shall be made available from 30.01.2026.
2. The Bid documents may be downloaded from the website **(http:// tntenders.gov.in)** at free of cost up to 3.00 PM on 02.03.2026.
3. Bid through e- submission shall only be accepted.
4. Pre –bid meeting will be held on 16.02.2026 at 11.00 AM in the Office of the Hosur Corporation, Bagalur Road, Thillai Nagar, Hosur – 635109.

Commissioner,
DIPR/565/Tender/2026 Hosur City Municipal Corporation.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYAT RAJ DEPARTMENT
CHENGALPATTU DISTRICT

Short -Tender Notice
R.C.No.0275/2026/A9, dt 29.01.2026

Invitation of Tender Schedule in two cover system for the Procurement of steel rods for the KKI Housing scheme 2025-26 Additional in all the Panchayat Unions of Chengalpattu District.

1. Value of the work **Rs.757.00 lakh.**
2. Value of EMD is **Rs.7,57,000/-**
3. Bid documents in English may be downloaded in the website www.tntenders.gov.in from 30.01.2026 to **05.02.2026** up to **15.00 hrs.**
4. Last date & Time for uploading of Bid documents on **05.02.2026** upto **3.00 PM.**
5. Date and Time of downloading of technical bid documents on **05.02.2026** from **4.00 PM** onwards.
6. Other particulars are published in the respective tender schedule in the website **www.tntenders.gov.in**

DIPR/583/Tender/2026
Joint Director/Project Director, DRDA, Chengalpattu.

KARUR DISTRICT
KARUR CORPORATION
E-Tendering Tender Notice

Roc No: 6051/ 2025/ E2 **Dated: 28.01.2026**

Karur Corporation invites Bids from eligible Bidders through e-procurement portal for "Providing Comprehensive Intergrated Water Supply System to Karur Corporation with operation and maintenance for the period of 5 years". Bidders shall submit their Bids through online e-procurement portal **https://tntenders.gov.in** up to 03.00 PM (as per the time in the server clock of the tender portal) on 05.03.2026. The Bids will be opened through online at 3.30 PM. on the same day (05.03.2026)

Sl. No	Name of Work	Bid Value (Rs. In lakh)	Bid Security (Rs. In lakh)	Period of availability of bid document	Date and time of Bid opening	Period of Completion
1	Providing Comprehensive Water Supply System to Karur Corporation with operation and maintenance for the period of 5 years - package 1		103.88	02.02.2026 to 05.03.2026 up to 3.00 PM	05.03.2026 at 3.30 PM	24 Months
	Estimated cost for Providing Water Supply	9918.00				
	Estimated cost for Operation and maintenance for the period of 5 Years (Excluding electricity charges)	469.73				
2	Providing Comprehensive Intergrated Water Supply System to Karur Corporation with operation and maintenance for the period of 5 years - package 2		114.47	02.02.2026 to 05.03.2026 up to 3.00 PM	05.03.2026 at 3.30 PM	24 Months
	Estimated cost for Providing Water Supply	11120.00				
	Estimated cost for Operation and maintenance for the period of 5 Years (Excluding electricity charges)	327.17				

1. The Bid documents shall be made available from 02.02.2026.
2. The Bid documents may be downloaded from the website **(https://tntenders.gov.in)** at free of cost up to 3.00 PM on 05.03.2026.
3. Bids through e-submission shall only be accepted.
4. Pre-bid meeting will be held on 09.02.2026 at 11.00 AM in the Office of the Karur Corporation, Main Road, Karur – 639 001.

DIPR / 568 / Tender / 2026
Commissioner
Karur Corporation

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, ARCHANA Chintalpalli Lavakumar, d/o; Kakimani Krishnakumar, r/o: No538, A Annaiah Reddy Layout, C Cross, Dodda Banaswadi, Blr–560043. Have changed my name as Archana Kakimani

I, SANDHYA Kulgod Rao, d/o; Prabhakar Kulgod, r/o: 459 8th Mainroad Behind Medsol Hospital 1st Block, BDA Valagerehalli RV Niketan, Blr– 560059. Have changed my name as Sandhya Kulgod

I, CHOUDRY Nayaz Ahmed Qureshi, S/o Choudry Abdul Wahab, R/a No.6, M No 3rd Cross, New Market Road, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru-560051 have changed my name to Choudry Nayaz Ahmed vide affidavit dt: 29.01.2026 sworn before Notary Bhagya Kumari N, B'lore

I, P. Rekha Gandhi w/o Vimal jain @ No.102/2, M. Ramamurthy Road, 7th Main Road, Sriramapuram Bangalore-21 Do hereby declare that I have changed my name from P. Rekha Gandhi to Rekha Jain Henceforth I Shall be called as Rekha jain for all purpose, vide affidavit dated 29/01/2026 sworn before Notary M.Manjula devi, Bengaluru

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Date: 18 October 2025

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/ಕೆಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಬಿ/2025–26/1739 ದಿನಾಂಕ:27.01.202

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) KW-1, 2 & 3 (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: Shahapur Tq. 1) RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_ INDENT 23217 2) RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT23216 3) RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT23207 4) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23213 5) 5RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23212 6) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23209 7) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23221 8) RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT23214 Shorapur Tq. 9) RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT23596 10) RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT23514 11) RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT23516 12) RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT23590 13) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23528 14) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23529 15) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23523 16) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23517 17) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT23521 18) RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT235251 **2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ:** 2025–26ನೇ ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ. ಯೋಜನೆ **3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಕನಿಷ್ಠ 17.00 ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ **4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ** : 4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು **5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**29.01.2026 ರಿಂದ 06.02.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ:** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) **7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ:** 06.02.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ **8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 3):** 09.02.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **9) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1 & 2):** 09.02.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **10) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ– 3):** 13.02.2026 ಬೆಳ್ಳಿಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ **11) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ):** ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ. **12) ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ:** https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in
ಸೂಚನೆ :– ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ನಗರ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ವಿಭಾಗ, ರಾಯಚೂರು
ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ: # 1–11–50/ಎ/ 14 & 15, ಸಿದ್ಧಾರ್ಥ ಕಾಲೋನಿ, ಲಾಯನ್ಸ್ ಕ್ಲಬ್ ಶಾಲೆ ಹಿಂದುಗಡೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು–584101.
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: eekwbraichur@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಕಜಮ/ಕಾಪಅ/ರಾವಿ/ತಾಶಾ/ಸ.ಅ/ಸಿರವಾರ/ಒ.ಹೆಚ್.ಟಿ/2025–26/1344 ದಿನಾಂಕ:28.01.2026

ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ (2ನೇ–ಕರೆ)

ಬಿಡ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಲಾದ ಅರ್ಹತಾ ಅವಶ್ಯಕತೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಫರ್ಮ್ಸ್ ರವರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.
ಸೂಚನೆ:– ಕಾರಣಾಂತರಗಳಿಂದಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೂಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
1) ಇ–ಪ್ರೂಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ.:KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT475/CALL-2 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. (ಜಿಎಸ್‌ಟಿ ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ): 70,56,337–00. **3) ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.:** 1,41,000–00. **4) ಟೆಂಟರ್ ಅವಧಿ:** 12ತಿಂಗಳು
ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿ:– 1. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಪ್ರಾರಂಬದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28–01–2026 ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ. 2. ಬಿಡ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08–02–2026 ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 17:30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ. 3. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10–02–2026 ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ. 4. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಯಶಸ್ವಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ದಾರರಿಗೆ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.
ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಆಧಿಕಾರಿ: ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು. ದೂರವಾಣಿ॥ 08532 200051

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು.
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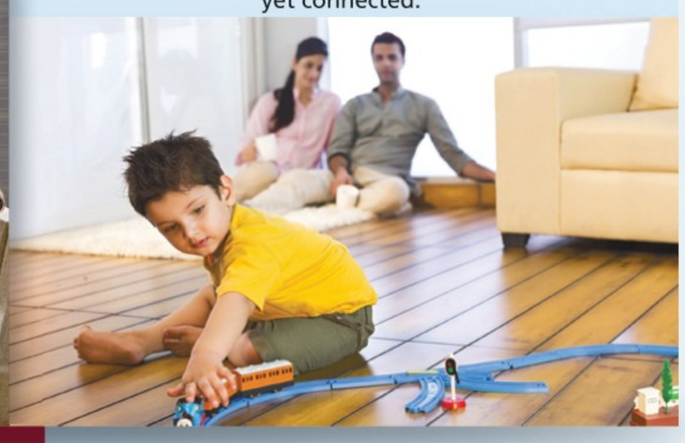

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From moon to MRIs: how space research has transformed healthcare

A number of research developments meant for space have made their way down to earth, improving and enhancing healthcare; from digital image processing deployed in ultrasounds, CTs, MRIs and mammography to wearables that monitor heart rate, ECG, respiration and movement, space research has contributed to better life on earth

K. Ganapathy

Many of us may not be aware of healthcare spinoffs that come about as a byproduct of space exploration. A significant number of them, however, have contributed to better healthcare here on earth.

Under the United States' space programme, NASA, there are over 2,000 such spinoffs, profiled since 1976, with benefits for life on earth in the form of commercial products. India too, has made some progress in this regard. While the ISRO's current annual budget of ₹13,416 crore is 6% of the NASA's annual budget, over 350 technologies have been transferred to Indian industries, including several in health/biomedical sectors (implants, sensors, medical electronics), through the ISRO's Technology Transfer Programme.

Just a few examples include the ISRO's VSAT terminals and VSAT-enabled mobile medical units to facilitate healthcare delivery in remote locations; an endoscopic catheter mounted impedance probe to assess mucosal health, a capacitive sensor to detect malignancy in leukocytes; the ISRO smart limb – a low-cost bionic limb for amputees, and an artificial polyurethane foot.

Tech upgrades: NASA technologies improved MRI and CT imaging primarily by providing advanced digital image-processing, segmentation, and fusion methods that enhance contrast, reduce noise, and help with better distinguishing of tissues, especially at low doses or low signals. GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- Under the United States' space programme, NASA, there are over 2,000 such spinoffs, profiled since 1976, with benefits for life on earth in the form of commercial products
- India too, has made some progress in this regard. Over 350 technologies have been transferred to Indian industries, including several in health/biomedical sectors (implants, sensors, medical electronics), through the ISRO's Technology Transfer Programme
- For emerging economies in particular, techniques and applications produced by space research can go a long way towards ensuring better healthcare delivery and service

Diagnostics and imaging

Patients and even doctors seldom realise that the digital image processing deployed in ultrasounds, CTs, MRIs and mammography images was initially used in planetary and astronomical image analysis.

NASA technologies improved MRI and CT imaging primarily by providing advanced digital image-processing, segmentation, and fusion methods that enhance contrast, reduce noise, and help with better distinguishing of tissues, especially at low doses or low signals. These tools originated in processing planetary earth observations, and plasma-physics data. They were then used in clinical radiology as software and workflow concepts.

Engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and other NASA centres developed digital enhancement techniques (contrast stretching, filtering, deblurring, edge detection) to analyse lunar and planetary images. These were later adapted to improve CT and MRI images, especially in low-contrast situations. Advanced ultrasound techniques using portable, networked systems, speckle reduction, and elastography algorithms were initially refined on Shuttle Spacecrafts and on board the International Space Station. Infrared ear thermometers using IR sensors and optics were developed for stellar temperature measurement.

Compact blood analysers and miniaturised "lab-on-chip" devices used in point of care diagnostics will eventually make available, a sophisticated laboratory in our homes and perhaps even in our pockets. The impetus and initial funding for this research, which today benefits earthlings, came from sheer necessity for blood tests in microgravity situations 400 km above the earth.

The now commonplace wearables, those monitoring heart rate, ECG, respiration and movement, were originally derived from astronaut bio telemetry. Non-invasive glucose and metabolic monitoring concepts using optical and microwave sensing were initially investigated for in-flight monitoring. Smart clothes with embedded strain gauges, accelerometers, and ECG electrodes evolved from space-suit biomonitoring.

Advanced air and water purification systems (HEPA/particulate filters, catalytic oxidizers) were originally designed for closed spacecraft. Microbial monitoring and sterilisation approaches have all been refined in the context of spacecraft contamination control. Antimicrobial and low-outgassing materials from spacecraft cabins are now used in clinical surfaces, catheters, and implant coatings.

Telemedicine and logistics

Satellite-based telemedicine consultations still play a significant role in remote areas where terrestrial internet may not be available. Satellite communication also facilitates disaster management, teleradiology and specialist support including for the health of astronauts. Global disease surveillance and epidemiological mapping using earth-observation and satellite data (environmental correlates, vector habitats, disaster impact on health systems) have played a major role in containing global outbreaks.

Solar-powered vaccine refrigerators and medical coolers developed to support off-grid space-related field operations, are now widely used in immunisation programmes. Drone delivery systems for medical supplies rely on satellite navigation and communication. These, too, evolved from space missions.

Devices and interventions

Certain Ventricular Assist Devices were co-developed with NASA flow-dynamics expertise to create very small, low-shear blood pumps for management of end-stage heart failure. Programmable pacemakers and rhythm-management hardware resulted from radiation-hardened electronics, miniaturisation and power-management work done for spacecraft.

In 2016, the ISRO developed a low-cost heart pump that assists the human heart, notably in cases of left ventricle failure, using lightweight rocket material. This device is composed of a special bio-compatible titanium alloy and can pump 3-5 litres of blood every minute. It has been experimented with successfully on animals, and holds promise for eventual clinical trials. Astronaut exercise hardware gave a fillip to robotic and sensor-based advanced rehabilitation systems. Prosthetic limbs and orthoses improved, using space shuttle foam-insulation and composite-material know-how for lighter, better-fitting components. In 1977, the first patent for a cochlear implant was with the NASA assistance.

Invisible braces are a type of transparent ceramic called translucent polycrystalline alumina (TPA). The company Ceradyne, developed TPA in conjunction with the NASA Advanced Ceramics Research, as protection for infrared antennae on heat-seeking missile trackers. A sunglasses manufacturer, Foster Grant, first licensed a NASA technology for scratch-resistant lenses, developed to protect space equipment from scratching in space, especially helmet visors.

Space blankets, developed in 1964 for the space programme, are lightweight and reflect infrared radiation. These items are often included in first aid kits. Tech startup BeeHex developed 3D printing systems for food such as pizza, desserts, and icings following a NASA-funded project.

Healthcare applications

Biomechanical and physiological models (bone loss, muscle atrophy, cardiovascular deconditioning) developed from astronaut data, have contributed to current management of osteoporosis, sarcopenia and enforced bed rest. Radiobiology and radiation-risk models from deep-space exposure studies help cancer risk assessment and radiotherapy safety. Human factors, alarm fatigue and cockpit-style interface design methods from spacecraft have been used in intensive care units (ICUs) and operating room monitoring systems.

While the debate about funding space research continues, there is no doubt that investment in space exploration has contributed to better life on earth in a number of ways, particularly in healthcare. For emerging economies in particular, techniques and applications produced by space research can go a long way towards ensuring better healthcare delivery and service.

(Dr. K. Ganapathy is a distinguished professor at The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University and past president of the Neurological Society of India and the Telemedicine Society of India. drkganapathy@gmail.com)

Closer look into physical and emotional impact of delayed puberty in children

Rajeev M.R.

Delayed puberty is more than just a normal variation; it can have serious repercussions if it is not identified in time or treated properly. Puberty is an important part of growing up, a stage that witnesses growth spurts, sexual maturation, bone growth, and psychological hardening or mental toughness, because of hormonal changes. If this stage gets delayed, the repercussions can be felt even beyond the age of adolescence.

What is delayed puberty?

Delayed puberty can be defined as the lack of appearance of pubertal changes in girls by age 13 and in boys by age 14. Studies indicate that delayed puberty, affects 2-3% of children in their adolescence, and more cases are reported among boys than girls. This can sometimes be the result of a constitutional growth and development delay, but in some instances, it may present certain physiological problems or diseases in children.

Puberty is responsible for nearly 20-25% of adult height gain and up to 50% of bone mass accrual. A delay in puberty thus delays this growth spurt, usually leading to shorter heights at an adolescent stage. While many children catch up over time, significantly delayed puberty could compromise peak height attainment, especially when the condition relates to chronic illness, malnutrition, or untreated hormonal deficiencies.

The age of exposure to sex hormones, such as oestrogen and testosterone, also contributes to the level to which bones become mineralised. Delayed puberty has been known to result in low bone mineral density among many people, thus predisposing them to higher risks of fractures or even osteoporosis during their youth or later in life.

Sex hormones play a crucial role in the development of secondary and primary sex characteristics and organs. Delayed puberty can delay the maturation of the ovaries, testes, and external sex organs. Delayed puberty that occurs due to conditions such as hypogonadism and pituitary disorders could have implications for fertility in the future if not treated on time.

When puberty is delayed in girls, it delays the start of menstruation, and in boys, a deficiency of testosterone decreases muscle mass and delays changes to the voice and sex organ development. Early detection is important to be able to get timely treatment.

Need to evaluate: Studies indicate that delayed puberty affects 2-3% of adolescent children. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Psychological impact

The emotional consequences of late puberty are sometimes overlooked. When puberty occurs late in relation to their age, young adolescents may suffer from low self-esteem, body image issues, isolation, and sadness. Some research suggests a higher vulnerability to bullying and exclusion by age mates for boys with late puberty, and greater emotional problems on the part of girls due to feelings of being "left behind."

Adolescence is an age during which acceptance from society or building an identity among peers assumes critical importance; physical differences, therefore, may cause severe psychological impacts.

Delayed puberty could also potentially affect social interactions among adolescents and their perception of themselves within a social setting.

If a child looks younger than their counterparts, they can also attract differential treatment at their learning centres and social circles in terms of leadership and socialisation roles.

Studies suggest that young people with untreated and delayed pubertal development, score lower in health-related quality-of-life compared to their peers because of problems in emotional/social functioning.

Although constitutional delay is very common, delayed puberty may also be caused by illnesses such as inflammatory bowel disease, kidney disease, deficiencies in nutrients, overexercise, genetic disorders, or problems in the endocrine system that involve the thyroid, pituitary glands, or gonads. Sometimes, delayed puberty is the initial manifestation of a health problem that needs to be addressed.

Early evaluation by a clinician helps in differentiating between normal variations of development and pathological causes. The simplest diagnostic tests for the conditions include growth analyses, bone age evaluation, as well as hormonal assessments aimed at informing intervention. Where the need arises, short-term hormonal replacement has been effective in stimulating growth rate, pubertal development, as well as mental well-being without adversely altering final height.

Take action

Delayed puberty cannot simply be allowed to "sort itself out." Parents, teachers, and healthcare professionals must be aware of, and informed on this matter so that it can be addressed early, as this could enable the children to start their teens with confidence as far as their health is concerned.

(Dr. Rajeev M. R. is senior consultant in general paediatrics at Aster Whitefield Hospital, Bengaluru. rajeev.ramachandran@asterhospital.in)

Namma 112 helpline saw significant growth; calls from women up

The police say this surge in emergency reporting coincided with a 9% reduction in cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The city's emergency response system has witnessed major technological upgrades over the past four years, resulting in faster response times, increased accountability, and improved citizen safety, with the Namma 112 helpline having received 5,22,742 calls, including 1,16,800 from women last year, marking an increase of around 77,000 calls compared to 2024, said a release.

The Namma 112 helpline received 5,22,742 calls, including 1,16,800 from women last year, marking an increase of around 77,000 calls compared to 2024. FILE PHOTO

This surge in emergency reporting coincided with a 9% reduction in cases, said the police.

According to officials, the transformation began in 2022 with the Bangalore Safe City Project, supported by the Union government's Nirbhaya Fund. Despite limited technological infrastructure, emergency response teams handled 2,49,945 calls, including 91,250 from women, aided by Hoysala patrol units and a fleet of 320 vehicles, building public confidence in police responsiveness.

In 2023, Bengaluru became the first city in India to integrate body cameras with its command-and-control workflow. Every Hoysala patrol vehicle was equipped with dashboard cameras, improving transparency, officer safety, and evidence collection. That year, 2,51,779 calls were handled, including 98,550 from women, as the system prepared for the upgraded 112 infrastructure.

Citizen-centric enhancements continued in 2024. Distressed callers received SMS-based vehicle tracking of approaching patrols and follow-up feedback calls. Bengaluru recorded 4,43,918 emergency calls, including 1,02,480 from women, with 68% of callers giving five-star ratings, reflecting high public satisfaction, said the release.

Additionally, emergency call boxes were installed at safety islands and integrated with the helpline, resulting in 230 genuine emergency calls being received through these facilities.

From PRI to SIP tech

Mid-2025 saw another major upgrade with the migration from PRI to SIP technology, reducing call congestion and dropped connections, along with number masking to protect caller privacy.

By late 2025, the helpline integrated with Ola and Uber, allowing passengers to access emergency services directly during rides. Police officials have stated that further upgrades – including multilingual support and integration with government and private agencies – are planned to further enhance accessibility and efficiency, added the release.

Over the last four years, Bengaluru's emergency response system has handled 9,45,642 emergency calls, assisting 2,92,280 women in distress, demonstrating the city's commitment to leveraging technology for public safety, the release said.

Special units to be set up to strengthen probe for missing children, persons

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To strengthen investigation, monitoring and coordination in cases of missing children and persons, the Karnataka police have ordered the constitution of District/Division Missing Persons Units (DMPU) and Missing Persons Squads (MPS) across the State.

According to a circular dated January 21 issued in compliance with directions of the Supreme Court and various High Courts, the Police Department has emphasised that cases of missing persons must be treated with utmost seriousness, urgency and sensitivity. The circular warns that delays, a casual approach or lack of coordination could result in irreversible harm, including trafficking, exploitation and loss of life.

As per the circular, every district and commissionerate shall establish a DMPU under the district police office or respective commissionerates. The DMPU will function under the DCRB/CCRB and will be responsible for collection, collation, analysis and review of data related to missing children and persons.

The Police Department has emphasised that cases of missing persons must be treated with utmost seriousness. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The unit will function under the supervision of the Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) or Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) and act as the nodal coordination agency for inter-district, inter-State and inter-agency communication. The circular further mandates that every police station must have a MPS, comprising one PSI as in-charge and four staff members, including a woman police constable.

The MPS will function under the supervision of the inspector or CPI and ensure prompt registration of cases, immediate field action, sustained follow-up and proper documentation. It also reiterates that cases transferred to the Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTU) shall be investigated exclusively by AHTU, strictly in accordance with existing standing orders and standard operating procedures. To ensure accountability, the Karnataka Police have directed continuous monitoring of data uploads on prescribed digital portals.

Senior Child Welfare Police Officers have been tasked with personally monitoring cases until missing children are traced.

Rising numbers

According to statistics shared during Question Hour in the Legislative Assembly recently, the number of missing children cases has shown a steady rise over the years. Data indicates that In 2020 1,517 children were reported missing. In 2021, the number rose to 2,073, in 2022, cases increased to 2,509, in 2023, the figure climbed to 2,962, and in 2024, over 3,200 missing children cases were reported. In 2025 (up to November 15), over 2,300 cases had already been registered.

Separate data on untraced missing children also shows a worrying trend, with the number of pending cases increasing year-on-year.

Highlighting the importance, Director-General and Inspector-General of police M.A. Saleem said that effort is to improve the detection rate from 91% to 99%. "Missing cases need to be prioritised in order to contain possible human trafficking and only police who have the expertise, empowerment, and authority can do it," he added.

State police to get casual leave on birthdays, wedding anniversaries

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a personnel-friendly move, the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police (DG & IGP) issued a circular on Thursday directing all unit heads to grant casual leave to police officers and personnel on the occasion of their birthdays and wedding anniversaries.

A file photo of Bengaluru police personnel celebrating the birthday of their colleague.

According to the circular, granting leave on such special occasions allows officers to relax emotionally, spend quality time with their families, and maintain a healthy balance between professional duties and personal life.

The order states that this humane approach is expected to boost morale, reduce stress, improve job satisfaction, and enhance overall productivity within the police force.

The directive further notes that acknowledging personal events will strengthen loyalty, discipline, and organisational efficiency among police personnel.

All unit officers have been instructed to grant leave without fail to police officers and staff who apply for leave on their birthdays or wedding anniversaries. The circular comes into immediate effect.

The order was issued following a recommendation made by Mohan Kumar Danappa, a member of the State Police Complaints Authority, on December 4.

Sources said that the practice of granting leave on birthdays had earlier been followed during the tenure of former Bengaluru Police Commissioner B. Dayananda, but was later discontinued abruptly. While the provision of granting such leave at the police station level has existed, it has not been implemented strictly due to factors such as staff shortages and heavy workload.

Kannada actor Mayur Patel booked for drunken driving

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sandalwood actor Mayur Patel was booked for drunken driving and negligent driving after allegedly causing a late-night multiple-vehicle accident on HAL Airport Road.

The accident occurred around 10 p.m. on Wednesday, when Patel, who was at the wheel, allegedly rammed a car that had halted at the traffic signal, near the Command Hospital. The impact triggered further collision involving four vehicles.

According to the police, two other cars were damaged in the accident.

Patel was allegedly speeding at the time of the accident.

Passers-by alerted the police control room, following which the Halasuru Traffic Police rushed to the spot and took Patel to the police station.

The police made him undergo a test, the result of which was found to be positive, confirming that he was under the influence of alcohol.

The police seized Patel's car. On checking, they learnt that the vehicle did not have a valid insurance at the time of the accident.

Based on a complaint by Srinivas, a car owner, the police registered an FIR against Patel at the Halasuru Traffic Police station under Section 281 (rash and negligent driving) of the BNS, and Section 185 (drunken driving) of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Mr. Srinivas claimed to have bought the car a few days ago after pawning his wife's jewellery, and was working as a cab driver.

He had not even paid the first EMI, and rued the potential loss of several days of employment due to the necessary repair work.

Guard killed as iron gate collapses on him

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 49-year-old security guard was killed after an iron gate of a commercial establishment collapsed on him at Bagalagunte on Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Swamy, who had joined work as a security guard about five months ago. He is survived by his wife, a domestic help, and two daughters.

According to the police, the incident came to light when passers-by noticed Swamy lying in a pool of blood under the collapsed gate and alerted the authorities. Police personnel shifted the body for post-mortem..

A case of unnatural death has been registered, and investigation is under way to ascertain the exact cause of the accident.

The incident adds to a series of similar fatal accidents involving iron gates in the city over the years, raising concerns over safety standards and maintenance.

In September 2025, an 11-year-old boy, Niranjan, a class 5 student and a resident of Dattatreya Temple Street, died after sustaining severe head injuries when an iron gate at a playground in Malleswaram crashed on him.

Earlier, in July 2019, a 24-year-old security guard was killed and two others were injured when a newly installed iron gate weighing about 500 kg fell on them at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) campus on C.V. Raman Road.

In another tragic incident in March 2018, a 12-year-old boy, Manjunath died after a sliding gate of a private software firm in Jayanagar collapsed on him. Manjunath, a class 6 student of Vijaya Kannada Higher Primary School and a resident of Jayanagar 6th Block, was returning home from school at the time.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Total number of Internet users in India in September 2025

1.02 in billion. India's total Internet users numbered nearly 1.02 billion by September 2025, a sharp increase from about 250 million in 2014. The country is also the world's second largest smartphone market, with 750 million devices. REUTERS

People who got employed at job fairs in India in 2025

2.22 in crore. A total of 2.22 crore people across the country were provided jobs in over 18,000 job fairs during the past year, the Minister of Labour and Employment Mansukh Mandaviya said. The minister also said that employment generation is growing. PTI

Number of lifetime bans issued by China's football association

73 China's football association issued lifetime bans to 73 people, including former national team coach Li Tie, and punished 13 top professional clubs for match-fixing and corruption. A sweeping anti-corruption crackdown has swept through Chinese football in recent years. AFP

Amount allocated in Kerala budget to open menopause clinics

3 In crore. The Kerala government is taking a step toward focusing on women's healthcare. In the State budget presented in the Assembly on Thursday, Finance Minister K.N.Balagopal announced that ₹3 crore will be allocated to set up specialised menopause clinics in district hospitals. PTI

Outstanding individual home loans at the end of March 2025

37 In ₹ lakh crore. Housing finance has expanded at a steady pace, with outstanding individual home loans rising nearly four times to ₹37 lakh crore at the end of March 2025. The share of home-loans-to-GDP has grown to 11% in 2024-25. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Has health spending by the Centre increased?

As per data from the Reserve Bank of India, allocations for health and family welfare as a percentage of GDP by all States and Union Territories have increased from 2017-18. In contrast, the Union government's spending on health, which increased moderately during the pandemic, has decreased post-pandemic

ECONOMIC NOTES

Indranil

The 2017 National Health Policy (NHP) had committed to "increase health expenditure by Government as a percentage of GDP [Gross Domestic Product] from the existing 1.15% to 2.5% by 2025." While 2025 is now over, this basic goal is nowhere near realisation, since the Union government has not upscaled its health budget as required over the last decade. The NHP also proposed that the Union government's share should be 40% of total public spending. This essentially means that spending by the Centre should increase from the current level of 0.29% to 1% of GDP – which requires increasing allocations by at least three times.

Low spending on public health

Public spending on health in India continues to be abysmally low compared to many countries. For instance, Bhutan's per capita spending on health was 2.5 times more than that of India's, while Sri Lanka's was three times in 2021. All the other BRICS nations spent 14-15 times more on health per person than India did. Similarly, Thailand and Malaysia also spend at least 10 times more per capita on health than India.

During the COVID years, public spending on health as a percentage of GDP had increased somewhat, with much of the rise attributed to the States rather than the Union government. The States have sustained such increase post-COVID as well. As per data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), allocations for health and family welfare by all States and Union Territories have increased from 0.67% in 2017-18 to 1.1% of GDP as per 2025-26 Budget Expenditure (BE) (Chart 1). Similarly, the share for health spending in overall State budgets has increased from 5% to 5.6% during this period.

In contrast, the Union government's spending on health as a percentage of GDP, which increased moderately during the pandemic, has decreased post-pandemic. The Union government's allocation on health in the 2025-26 Budget was 4.7% less than what was actually spent in 2020-21, when one takes into account the effect of increasing prices. This means that the care that could be provided in 2020-21 cannot be ensured now, given that allocations have declined while prices have skyrocketed. As a percentage of GDP, the Union government's allocation for health has declined drastically from 0.37% (2020-21 Actual Expenditure) to 0.29% (2025-26 BE) (Chart 1). It seems that even the modest higher priority accorded to the health sector during COVID has been slashed after the immediate emergency passed. The share of health in the total Union Government budget has declined from 2.26% to 2.05% in this period.

On cess

In 2018-2019, Health and Education Cess (HEC) was introduced as 4% of one's total taxable income. The cess was supposed to top up and expand existing government spending on health and to take care of the health of poor and rural families. However, the thousands of crores collected yearly as HEC has not been used to expand the health budget but instead is being used to supplement tax resources. For instance, the FY2023-24 collection of HEC was ₹71,180 crore, of which one fourth went to health, which came to around ₹17,795 crore. If we keep aside this cess amount, we note that the Union Budget's allocation for health has declined by 22.5% in real terms between 2020-21 and 2023-24 (Chart 2).

Cutting schemes

In 2014-15, three-fourth (75.9%) of Union spending on health was transferred to the States for various Centrally Sponsored Schemes like the National Health Mission. Overtime, this has declined consistently to reach just 43% in 2024-25 (Budget Estimates), which is completely insufficient to maintain basic health services. It should be noted that the State governments bear the main costs of providing healthcare to people across India, and they need to be adequately resourced by the Union government. The trend reflects hyper-centralisation of financial resources on health, although health services largely fall within the domain of States.

By trying to identify which schemes and programs have received cuts and which have seen considerable increase, one can understand the real health sector priorities of the Union Government. Schemes which strengthen the public health system and protect the health of the most vulnerable sections of society, like the NHM, the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, and schemes on nutrition and health research have received severe cuts despite doing good work in hard times.

Launched in 2005, the NHM has been a crucial intervention by the Union government to improve health services in rural and urban areas. But in the last seven years, expenditure on this key scheme has mostly remained stagnant or has come down. Between FY14 and FY19, the spending on NHM grew at 7.4% on average, largely due to a sudden jump in FY18. However, during the second tenure of the National Democratic Alliance government, spending on NHM actually declined in real terms by 5.5% on average.

Indranil is a health economist, professor, School of Government and Public Policy, OP Jindal Global University, Haryana.

Health is wealth

During the COVID years, public spending on health as a percentage of GDP had increased somewhat, with much of the rise attributed to the States rather than the Union government

CHART 1: Union and State government spending on health (as % of GDP)

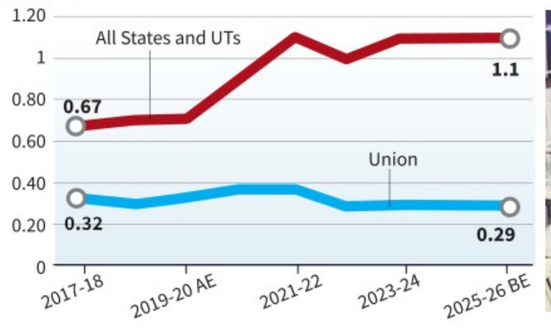
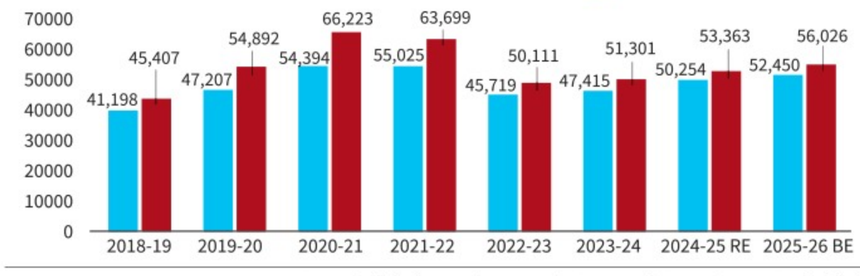


CHART 2: Union government expenditure on health (constant 2018-19 prices) with and without the cess amount



Source: indiabudget.gov.in, Economic Survey, RBI's State Finances: Study of budgets

THE GIST

- Public spending on health in India continues to be abysmally low compared to many countries.
- In 2018-2019, Health and Education Cess (HEC) was introduced as 4% of one's total taxable income. The cess was supposed to top up and expand existing government spending on health and to take care of the health of poor and rural families.
- Schemes which strengthen the public health system and protect the health of the most vulnerable sections of society, like the National Health Mission, the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, and schemes on nutrition and health research have received severe cuts despite doing good work in hard times

What is the Salman Khan personality rights case?

The ongoing case has generated interest in the legal battle between individual personality rights, particularly in the context of celebrities, and technology companies operating AI-driven platforms in India

Virag Gupta

The story so far:

The High Court of Delhi issued a notice on January 21, 2026, to actor Salman Khan on an application filed by a China-based AI voice generation platform seeking to vacate an interim injunction protecting the actor's personality rights. While the main matter was heard on January 23 by the Joint Registrar (Judicial), the Chinese app's application is listed for February 27.

Who is John Doe?

The original suit named 28 defendants, including major technology companies such as Apple Inc., Google LLC, Meta's Facebook and Instagram, X, e-commerce platforms including Amazon India and Flipkart, and intermediaries like Telegram FZ LLC. Mr. Khan also sought an injunction against unknown persons, joined as Defendant No. 1 ('John Doe' or 'Ashok Kumar'), a procedural device that allows courts to pass *ex-parte* orders where defendants cannot be identified.

The Chinese AI platform was later added as Defendant No. 35, though it is yet to be formally impleaded following the order of the Joint Registrar (Judicial).

How do personality rights operate?

In *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2017), the Supreme Court recognised privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21. Courts have since held that unauthorised commercial exploitation of an individual's persona may infringe the right to life. Personality rights recognise the economic value of identity, particularly for public figures, and are distinct from statutory intellectual property rights.

In a 2025 order involving Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, the Delhi High Court noted that unauthorised use of a celebrity's identity could cause commercial harm. Courts have restrained false impersonation, unauthorised use of images and names by websites and AI tools, and the creation of manipulated or inappropriate content.

While Article 19(1)(g) guarantees Indian citizens the right to conduct business, this right is subject to reasonable restrictions. Courts have also protected artistic expression, provided such works do not mislead the public or imply endorsement. Foreign entities, however, cannot invoke Article 19 before Indian courts.

What is the Chinese app context?

In 2020, the Union government banned over 200 Chinese applications under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, citing national security concerns related to data collection and storage. Although the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, has been passed, enforcement remains pending, leaving gaps in regulation, particularly in the AI sector. Nandan Nilekani recently said voice-based AI is critical for digital equity and could be like a UPI-moment for India. A dismissal of the Chinese platform's application could have broader implications for misuse by AI companies.

What about fees in celebrity suits?

Personality rights claims are typically filed under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, since celebrities rarely hold conventional IP rights over their identity. Courts have, however, allowed interim injunctions without upfront payment of court fees in several cases, granting extensions under procedural provisions. This practice has attracted scrutiny, given the high brand valuations often cited in such suits. Recent scrutiny in the European Union of generative AI systems such as Elon Musk's Grok highlights similar regulatory concerns.

In India, while the IT Rules, 2021 provide takedown mechanisms, the limited effectiveness of grievance redressal systems has pushed public figures to seek relief directly from High Courts. Ensuring protection against digital impersonation from celebrities to citizens remains a pressing concern.

Virag Gupta is an advocate at the Supreme Court.

THE GIST

- In K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017), the Supreme Court recognised privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21.
- While Article 19(1)(g) guarantees Indian citizens the right to conduct business, this right is subject to reasonable restrictions.
- Personality rights claims are typically filed under the Commercial Courts Act, 2015, since celebrities rarely hold conventional IP rights over their identity.

Inspector trapped while accepting bribe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta police on Wednesday trapped an inspector attached to the K.P. Agrahara police station while he was allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹4 lakh in connection with a chit fund-related case.

The accused inspector, Govindaraju, allegedly demanded money from a man, threatening to implicate him in a chit fund related cheating case if the bribe was not paid.

Acting on the complaint, the Lokayukta police laid a trap and allegedly caught the officer red-handed while accepting the bribe near the CAR Ground, Sirsi Circle.

The inspector has been booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act and taken into custody. Further investigation is under way to ascertain whether others were involved.

Sentenced

Meanwhile, in a separate corruption case, the 77th Additional City Civil and Sessions Court, Bengaluru, recently sentenced S. Srinivasa Murthy, former Deputy Commissioner of Excise, Chickballapur district, to three years of simple imprisonment in a disproportionate assets (DA) case.

The court also imposed a fine of ₹1,34,18,645, failing which he will have to undergo an additional one year of simple imprisonment.

According to the Lokayukta police, Murthy was found in possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income during the check period from October 1978 to September 2014, in his name and in the names of his family members. A raid conducted in 2014 revealed illegal assets worth ₹1.22 crore.

The accused was charged under relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Pronouncing the verdict, judge Prakash Nayak held the former official guilty after a full-fledged trial.

Searches

Further, the Karnataka Lokayukta police on Thursday, conducted simultaneous search operations at over five locations in connection with a DA case registered against Tejas Kumar N., Assistant Commissioner, who was recently transferred to the Shivamogga Forest Department as manager and is yet to report for duty.

According to Lokayukta officials, the searches revealed that the officer had allegedly amassed assets far beyond his known sources of income. During the operation, the police detected immovable and movable properties worth ₹26, 55, 66,250.

The immovable assets include four sites, eight houses, and 14 acres of agricultural land, collectively valued at ₹25,63,16,250. The movable assets seized during the searches include ₹50,000 in cash and vehicles worth ₹92 lakh.

ED attaches assets worth ₹177.3 crore in Veerendra-linked illegal online betting case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Bengaluru zonal office, has provisionally attached assets worth ₹177.3 crore in connection with an illegal online betting and gambling racket allegedly run by MLA for Chitradurga K.C. Veerendra and his associates.

The provisional attachment order was issued on Thursday under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The attached properties include agricultural land, residential sites, and other movable assets, which the ED alleged were derived from proceeds of the crime generated through illegal online betting activities.

A file photo of K.C. Veerendra, Congress MLA, after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in August, 2025.

The ED initiated the investigation based on multiple FIRs registered across several States under various sections of the IPC. The cases pertain to cheating, impersonation, and extortion of the public through illegal online betting platforms, including King567 and its associated websites.

According to the ED, the accused allegedly operated a nationwide betting network using a common modus operandi. Victims were lured into staking money on rigged online casino platforms through payment gateways. Initially, fake winnings were displayed to gain trust, after which users were blocked from withdrawing funds.

The probe revealed the use of hundreds of mule accounts and multiple payment gateways to launder the proceeds of the crime. Earlier, the ED conducted search operations at over 60 locations across several States, seizing cash, gold bullion, jewellery, vehicles, digital devices, and incriminating documents. Veerendra was arrested under Section 19 of the PMLA, and a prosecution complaint has already been filed before the special PMLA court.

With the latest attachment, the total value of assets attached in the case has crossed ₹320 crore.

The ED has so far identified proceeds of the crime worth over ₹2,300 crore generated through illegal online betting and gambling activities. The probe is ongoing to trace the remaining proceeds of the crime and identify other beneficiaries involved.

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No. KWB/CE(K)/TEC/AE-2/ WS/SIRGUPPA-OHT/NARG/2025-26/1433 Date : 23-01-2026

:: NOTICE INVITING TENDER – 3RD CALL ::

1) Detail of Work : Construction of 5.00 LL RCC Shaft type OHT on 15 Mtr Staging in ward No.18 Drivers colony and Providing & Laying of 200MM dia DI K9 class Pure Water Pipeline in Siruguppa city under Chief Ministers AMRUT Nagarothana (Municipality) Project Phase 4. (Lumpsum-No Variation). **(Work Indent No : KUWSDB/2025-26 /WS /WORK_INDENT455/ CALL-2),** 2) Amount of Estimate: **Rs. 185.75 Lakhs (Excluding GST),** 3) Eligibility of Contractor: Eligible Contractors, 4) Details of Tender application amount and EMD amount: **Rs. 2,80,000/-**, 5) Period of Completion: 12 (Twelve) Months), 6) Date and Time for commencement of downloading of tender documents from the e-procurement portal: **28-01-2026 after 17:00 hours**, 7) Date & Time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **02-02-2026 at 11:30 hours,** 8) Last Date and Time for receipt of Tenders: **11-02-2026 upto 17:30 hours**, 9) Date and Time for Opening of Tender: **13-02-2026 after 11:00 hours**, 10) Addl. information: Office of the Chief Engineer, KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, "Jalbhavan", Rajapur, Kusnoor Road, Telephone : 08472-220817, E-mail ID : **kwbceklb14@gmail.com** 11) Address of E-portal: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1025/KSMC&A/2025-26 **KUWS & D Board, Kalaburagi Zone, Kalaburagi**

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No. BDA/LAO/421/2025-26 Date: 29.01.2026

THANISANDRA REMOVAL OF ENCROACHED STRUCTURES CASE

The Commissioner and Disciplinary Authority of Bangalore Development Authority has appointed two retired District Judges as Inquiry Officers to verify the correctness of procedure followed on 08.01.2026 by the **Task Force in removal of encroched structures in Survey No.28/1 and 28/2 of Thanisandra Village, Arkavathi Layout.** The aggrieved persons are called upon to submit their application in the format prepared by the Enquiry Officers. Along with the Application a sworn affidavit on a stamp paper of Rs.100 shall be enclosed. The aggrived persons must also enclose the Xerox copies of the documents in support of their case.
The application along with the Affidavit should be submitted to the following office address **on or before 20.02.2026 (Friday) during office hours between 11.00 A.M. and 2.00 P.M. Address:** Land Acquisition Officers Division, 'A' Block, Room No.207, First Floor, Bangalore Development Authority, Headquarters office, Kumar Park West, T.Chowdayya Road, Bengaluru-560 020. Helpline No.9483166622. Format of Application and Affidavit are available on the BDA website: **www.bdakarnataka.in**

Sd/- Investigating Officer /
Inquiry Officer and Retired District Judge

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Open E-tender is invited by DRM(S&T), Jodhpur for and on behalf of the President of India for S&T work. Details as below. **1.Name of Work** : Provision of Double Distant signals in Jajiwal (JWL)-Nawa City (NAC) section of JU division of NW Railway. **2. Estimated cost of the work** : Rs 12,53,88,239/- (RO) **3. Address of the NIT Issuing office** : Sr. DSTE/JU NWR, DRM Office Harish Joshi Marg Jodhpur. **4.Bid security to be deposited.:** Rs. 7,77,000.00/- **5.Last Date & time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender** : 20/02/2026 Up to 11:00 Hrs through E-tendering online submission on IREPS, Tender will be opened at 11:00 Hrs. **6.Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen and participated:** www.ireps.gov.in **Note:** This is a E-Tender, so tenderer can participate through e-tendering process only on mentioned website

146-DR/26

Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby informed that my client **Sri. Srinivasa.M S/o Muniyappa,** aged about 49 years, residing at No.183, Sumuki Nilaya, NGR Layout, Roopena Agrahara, Bangalore-560 068 is intend to Purchase the schedule properties from its owners **SMT.LEELA V.SHETTY, W/o Late Dr.Vishwanath Shetty,** Aged about 82 years and **SMT.SABEENA ADITYA SHETTY @ SABEENA BHANDARY, W/o Sri.Aditya Shetty,** Aged about 60 years, both are residing at "Payal Palace" Flat No.B-101, 1st Floor, 7th Main, KHB Colony, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560 079.
The general public are hereby notified that in case if any person/s asserting any legitimate right, objection/s or claim over the schedule properties or any part thereof, they may forward such right/s or objection/s or claim/s along with the relevant documentary proof, to the undersigned with **15 days** from hereof. All such claims/objections received after **15 days** from the date of notification shall not be considered.

: SCHEDULE PROPERTY:

Item No.1
All that piece and parcel of **Residential Property bearing Site No.1**, Khatha No.10/3/1, formed in property No.10/3, present BBMP EPID No.8692155379, Property No.10/3/1, situated at **NYANAPPANAHALLI VILLAGE,** Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now comes within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.193., measuring **East to West 68 Feet** and **North to South 70' 6" Feet,** totally measuring **4800 Square Feet.,** together with all rights, appurtenance whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface:-
East by : Remaining Portion of same Property belongs to H.Krishnamurthy, West by : Site No.3, North by : Site No.2, South by : Road and Private Property.
Item No.2
All that piece and parcel of **Residential Property bearing Site No.02**, Khatha No.10/3/2, formed in property No.10/3, present BBMP EPID No.8099139856, Property No.10/3/2, situated at **NYANAPPANAHALLI VILLAGE,** Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore District, now comes within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.193., measuring **East to West 84' 2" Feet** and **North to South 57 Feet,** totally measuring **4800 Square Feet.,** together with all rights, appurtenance whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface:-
East by : Remaining Portion of same Property belongs to H.Krishnamurthy, West by : Site No.3, North by : Property of Chikkanahalli Lachappa, South by : Road and Site No.1.
Item No.3
All that piece and parcel of **Residential Property bearing Site No.3**, Khatha No.10/3/3, formed in property No.10/3, present BBMP EPID No.8528807254, Property No.10/3/3, situated at **NYANAPPANAHALLI VILLAGE,** Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, now comes within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Ward No.193., measuring **East to West 24 Feet** and **North to South 100 Feet,** totally measuring **2400 Square Feet.,** together with all rights, appurtenance whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface:-
East by : Site No.1 & 2, West by : Property belongs to Vajrappa, North by : Property belongs to Chikkanahalli Lachappa, South by : Road and Private Property.

M.R. REVANNA, Advocate
No.264, 1st Floor, Behind Ganesh Temple
Begur Road, Bommanahalli
Bangalore-560068. Ph:99806 28324

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

MG ROAD BANGALORE BRANCH

LOCKER BREAK OPEN NOTICE

The locker account mentioned below remains un-operated and dormant for past few years. The heirs has not responded to the notice issued by the bank from time to time and the Bank has not received any claim from the hirer or the legal heirs of the hirer. Under the circumstances we will be compelled to break open the said locker and notice is hereby issued, so that the concerned person /legal heirs shall approach the Branch with relevant documents on or before **07 Feb 2026**. During business hours for claiming/ closing locker facility, failing which, we will be constrained to break open the locker mentioned below on or after 09 Feb 2026.

Name and Address of Hirer as registered with the Bank	Locker Number	Locker Key Number
Mr. AASHISH GUPTA NO. 433 5TH B MAIN BLOCK II, HRBR LAYOUT BANGALORE	171	173
MRS. GEETHA NO. 129 GAYATHRI DEVI PARK VYALIKAVAL, BANGALORE 560003	183	223
MR. PALASH BANDHOPADHYAY NO. 66, 7TH CROSS, VICTORIA LAYOUT BANGALORE 560047	38	11
MRS. SELVI GNANAPACKIAM NO. 547, D TYPE 4, NH4, BHEL TOWNSHIP RAMACHANDRAPURAM, HYDERABAD 500032 B 314 BHEL TOWNSHIP, ZONE II RANIPET, TAMINNADU 632406	40	16

Date: 30.01.2026 **Suraj Prasanna Das (AGM)**
Place: Bangalore Indian Bank, MG Road Branch

aavin THE TAMIL NADU COOPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS' FEDERATION LIMITED,
AAVIN ILLAM, 3-A Pasumpon Muthuramalinganar Salai, NANDANAM, CHENNAI-600035,
TELEPHONE: 044-23464500, FAX : 044-23464505 E-MAIL: AAVINDGMENG@YAHOO.CO.IN
Ref. No: 15/Proj.3/2026 **NOTICE INVITING TENDER (e-Submission Only)** Dated: 28.01.2026

The TCMPF Ltd., invites **TWO PART TENDERS** by way of **e-Submission through e-Procurement Portal** from the reputed Manufacturers / Authorized Dealers for following items / works for TCMPF/DCMPU Dairies under Federation / Union Own Funds / Schemes:-

Sl. No.	Name of the works / Items	EMD Value Rs.	Tender Document Availability: 04.02.2026 to 23.02.2026 upto 3.00 PM
1.	Butter Blister/ Thermoforming machine for the butter cup of 8 gm	5,15,000.00	Pre Bid Meeting Date: 11.02.2026 at 11.00 AM
2.	Butter filling and Wrapping machine for the butter chiplet of size 10 gm	2,85,000.00	E-Submission End Date 23.02.2026 at 3.00 PM:
3.	Butter churn with Kneading Rollers and SS Gear Box	40,000.00	Technical Bid opening Date: 24.02.2026 at 3.00 P.M
4.	Mini milk power packing machine	25,000.00	

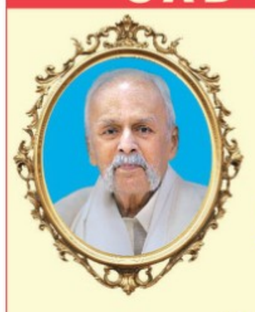
The Technical Bids shall be opened through online e-Procurement Portal **(https://tntenders.gov.in)** on mentioned date at above mentioned address. The bidders should submit their bids only through e-Procurement Portal **(https://tntenders.gov.in).** All other details can be seen in the tender documents, the tender documents can be downloaded at the above website. Corrigendum / Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.

Deputy General Manager (Engg.),
DIPR/ 574 /TENDER/2026 **Tamil Nadu Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Ltd.**

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing away of RENOWNED DERMATOLOGIST Dr. U.PRASAD RAU who attained the lotus feet of Lord Krishna on 27-1-2026.

He will always be remembered as a devoted husband, guiding father, a cherished grandfather and a Dedicated Philanthropist.

He is survived by
Padmini Prasad, Vikram, Vishranth, Adithi, Deepthy, grandkids & the staff of Dr. U. Sridhara Rau's Dermal Centre

DEATH

Sri. T. Suryanarayanan (Sury)
passed away peacefully at his home in Dallas, TX on January 20, 2026.
He is survived by his wife, Radha and his 3 children Anupama, Aruna, and Sekhar.
Please send condolences to tsury2026@gmail.com

DEATH

Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi raji'oon

Haji M.S. TAJUDEEN
Date of Death: 29-01-2026
We mourn the loss of **Haji M. S. TAJUDEEN** a great visionary and a stalwart who was instrumental in building our company. We owe a great debt of gratitude to his leadership. May Allah forgive his shortcomings and elevate him in highest rank in Jannah.
A.M.AHAMED & COMPANY
Chennai - Tuticorin

Heartfelt Condolences

Haji M.S. TAJUDEEN
Date of Death: 29-01-2026
With profound sorrow and deep respect that we announce the passing of **Haji. M. S. Tajudeen,** former President of our Association. He will be remembered for his vision, guiding the association with unwavering integrity and a warm human being. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.
Tuticorin Stevedores Association
Tuticorin

A Life Well Lived & Well Loved

Muralikrishnan Nagarajan
Age : 66 years
Regional Head - HR (Retd.)
Taj Group of Hotels, Karnataka
Passed away peacefully on 29.01.2026 in Chennai
Dearly missed by Family and Friends
Ct : 98846 35988, 90030 70705

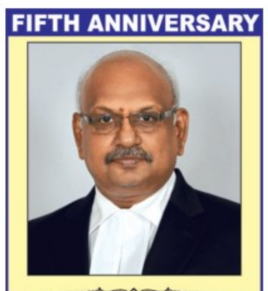
Heartfelt Condolences

Haji M.S. TAJUDEEN
Date of Death: 29-01-2026
With profound grief we inform the sad demise of our former Managing Director, **Haji.M.S.Tajudeen.** He will be remembered for his vision, guidance and human values. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.
SEC Services Private Limited
Tuticorin - 628008

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Rate for Karnataka:
Minimum: Rs. 320/- for 2 lines.
Extra line: Rs. 160/-
B/W Display: Rs. 95/- per sq.cm;
Colour Display: Rs. 105/- per sq.cm
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY



04.02.1955 - 30.01.2021
K. RAJASEKARAN, MA., BL.
Advocate
S/o. Late M.S. Kandasaami, District Judge (Retd)
Fondly remembered by
M.R. GOKUL KRISHNAN
Additional Government Pleader
Madras High Court & Juniors and Staff of KRS Associates.
99625 49483

CANARA BANK (A Government of India Undertaking)
Firfiraz Syndicate
MYSORE BANK CIRCLE BRANCH : B'LORE WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE ROAD, RAJDOOTH COMPLEX, MYSORE BANK CIRCLE, BENGALURU-560002
email: cb10446@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR

Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

To,
Borrower : 1.M/S MILAN CLOTHING
No 86/13g ,sy No 107 ,Doddabalapura Industrial Area , Bashettihalli Village , Kasaba Hobli ,Bengaluru-561203.
2.Mr.KALIDOSS RAJU (Partner) S/O Mr. T RAJU
Represented by GPA holder Sri.Raju Haridoss
No.787, 19th Main Road, 23rd Cross ,Hsr Layout, 2nd Sector ,Bengaluru-560102.
Also Residing at : Mr.KALIDOSS RAJU S/O Mr.T RAJU
5339 Birch Grove Dr Sanjose, Ca California ,United States-095123.
Also Residing at : Mr.KALIDOSS RAJU S/O T RAJU
Plot No.1351, Kohinoor Residency ,16th Main Block , Aecs Layout,begur Singasandra Village , Bengaluru-560068.
3.HARI DOSS R (Partner) S/O T RAJU
No.787,23rd Cross, 19th Main Road ,Sector2 Hsr Layout, Bengaluru , Karnataka-560102

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, **MYSORE BANK CIRCLE Branch (10446)** (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That **M/S. MILAN CLOTHING Represented by its partners Mr.KALIDOSS RAJU** represented by his GPA holder **Mr.Raju Haridoss and Mr.HARIDOSS R** (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower"1) has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above-mentioned agreements.

That **Mr. KALIDOSS RAJU** represented by his GPA holder **Mr.Raju Haridoss and HARI D0SS R** (hereinafter referred to as the Guarantor") have guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities up to the limit of **Rs.16,70,00,000.00 (Rupees Sixteen Crore Seventy lakhs only)**, with interest thereon.

You (The person mentioned in schedule B) are also entered in to agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.

However, from **23.10.2025** the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on date amounts to

Rs. 12,72,60,215.99 (Rupees Twelve Crore Seventy Two Lakhs Sixty Thousand Two Hundred Fifteen And Paisa Ninety Nine only) the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ instalment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as **Non Performing Asset (NPA) as on 23.01.2026** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at rates mentioned schedule C hereunder together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.

Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum of to **Rs.12,72,60,215.99 (Rupees Twelve Crore Seventy Two Lakhs Sixty Thousand Two Hundred Fifteen And Paisa Ninty Nine only)** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:

13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub-section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely;

(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;

(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset:

Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;

Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt; and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

You are also put on notice that in terms of section 13(13) the Borrower/Co-Borrower shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.

This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.

This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.

Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non- compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE –A
[Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower]

S No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan	Date of sanction	Amount
1	125001358144	MSME-OD/OCC	03.06.2021	Rs.500.00 lakhs
2	04469450000016	OSL-SYNDMSE	03.06.2021	Rs.105.00 lakhs
3	170000399599	MSME-TL	07.02.2020	Rs.903.00 lakhs
4	170002384378	GECL	28.10.2021	Rs.162.00 lakhs

SCHEDULE –B

Details of Security Assets :Movable:1.Hypothication of Stocks,Machineries,Equipments,Furniture/fixtures
Name of Title Holder :M/s Milon Clothing
Immovable : 1. All that piece and parcel of immovable property being Plot No.13G,Basettihalli Panchayath Property No.86/13G, E-khata No.150300301500620424 of Doddaballapura Industrial Area,situated in Sy.No.107 of Basettihalli Village, Kasaba Hobli ,Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru rural District-561203,totally measuring 2016 Sq.mtrs along with shed measuring a built up area of 3660 Sq.feet asbestos sheet, red oxide flooring and the property is bounded on the: **East by :** Road ,**West by :** Plot No.12B ,**North by :** Plot No.13F And **South by :** Plot No.13H.
Name of Title Holder : Mr.Raju Kalidoss and Mr.R Haridoss.
2. All that Piece and parcel of the Residential Property No.1351 in A Block bearing BBMP Khata No.873/1351,measuring East to West : 50 Feet (15.243 Meters) and North to South :100 Feet (30.480 Meters), in all measuring 5,000 Sq.feet or 555.55 Square Yards or 464.75 Squares Meters,in the layout formed by Aircraft Employees Co-operative Society Limited in Survey Nos.6/1, 6/2, 8/1, 8/2, 8/3, 8/4, 8/5, 8/6, 10/1, 10/3, 15/1P, 17P, 18, 19, 21/1, 21/3, 22/1, 22/2, 23/1, 23/2, 23/3, 23/4, 23/5, 23/6, 23/7, 23/8, 23/9, 23/10, 23/11, 23/12, 23/13, 25/1, 25/2, 25/3, 25/4, 25/5, 25/6, 26/1P, 26/3, 27/1A, 27/1B, 27/2, 28/1A, 28/1B, 28/2, 28/3, 28/4, 28/5, 29/2, 30/1, 30/2, 31, 32/2, 32/3, 36, 38, 39, 43/1, 44, 46, 61/1, 61/2, 62, 63, 64, 67/1, 67/2, 67/3, 67/4, 67/6, 68/1, 72/1, 72/2, 72/3, 72/4, 73, 74, 75/1, 75/2, 75/3, 75/4, 75/5, 75/6, 75/7, 75/8, 75/9, 76/1, 76/3, 76/4, 77/1, 77/2, 77/3, 77/4, 77/5, 77/6, 78, 79/1, 79/2, 79/3, 79/4, 79/5, 79/6, 79/7, 79/8, 79/9, 80, 81/1, 81/2A, 81/2B, 81/2C, 81/3A, 81/3B, 83, 84, 85, 91/1, 91/2, 94/1, 94/2, 95, 96/1P, 96/2, 96/3, 97/1B, 97/2, 102/1, 102/2, 103/1, 103/3, 103/4, 103/5B, 103/6, 104/2, 105/1P, 105/2, 105/3, 106/1P, 106/2P, 106/3, 106/4, 106/5, 106/6, 109, 111/1 and 111/2 of Singasandra Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore District,in the layout plan approved by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) as per the order NO.BDA/TPM/DD/1263/1992-93 dated :12.11.1992, together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface bounded on the: **East by :** Site No.1352, **West by :** Site No.1350, **North by :** Site No.1324 And **South by :** Road.
Name of Title Holder : Mr.Kalidoss Raju.

SCHEDULE – C
[Details of liability as on Date]

S No.	Loan No.	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Outstanding Liability	Rate Of Interest (Inclusive Penal Interest)
1	125001358144	MSME-OD/OCC	Rs.5,03,97,693.86	12.50%
2	04469450000016	OSL-SYNDMSE	Rs.6,48,32,960.62	13.30%
3	170000399599	MSME-TL	Rs.71,75,167.77	13.50%
4	170002384378	GECL	Rs.48,54,393.74	10.60%

Place : Bangalore
Date : 29.01.2026
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

GRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

Grains to gigabytes: unboxing India through FM's speeches

The history of India's Union Budget is effectively the biography of a nation in transformation. This timeline traces the shifting centre of economic gravity through five decisive phases and how the 'Briefcase' has carried India's destiny – from grain sacks to smartphones – in each Finance Minister's own words. **Nivedha M, Sambavi Parthasarathy, Devyanshi Bihani, Nitika Francis, and Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

FREE INDIA'S FIRST FULL BUDGET

RS. 26.85 CRORES DEFICIT:
121 CRORES FOR DEFENCE

TAX RELIEF TO INDUSTRY:
B. P. T. REDUCED

NEW EXPORT TAXES: HIGHER DUTIES ON TEA, COFFEE, MATCHES, AND TOBACCO

Design: **JVSN Rajasekhar**

Members of the Planning Commission meet the former members of the Congress Working Committee in New Delhi on October 16, 1952, to discuss the tentative recommendations in the final report of the Five Year Plan. HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

PHASE 1 · 1947–1960 · THE EARLY YEARS: FOUNDATIONS & SURVIVAL

YEAR: **1947-48**
FM: **R.K. SHANMUKHAM CHETTY**

A free nation

The primary focus was for the nation to "consolidate into one unified whole," dealing with the "setbacks resulting from Partition," and the rehabilitation of refugees. "The estimates include... a lump sum provision of ₹22 crores for expenditure on the evacuation, relief and rehabilitation of refugees from Western Pakistan."

YEAR: **1951-52**
FM: **C.D. DESHMUKH**

Food security

The 'Grow More Food' campaign was central. The FM argued that the food situation has deteriorated and as a result imports had to be increased. An additional 2 million tonnes of wheat were to be procured from the U.S. "Although Government are doing everything possible... the coming year the food position in the country is not likely to be easy."

YEAR: **1955-56**
FM: **C.D. DESHMUKH**

The plan era

The last Budget of the First Five Year Plan was framed to secure the "orderly implementation of the Plan" and stock-taking of achievements. "The plan was formulated under difficult circumstances with inflation, shortages and the like clouding the economy. The formulation of a plan was in itself a breaking of new ground."

PHASE 2 · 1961–1989 · MIDDLE DECADES: DEFENCE & AGRICULTURE

YEAR: **1963-64**
FM: **MORARJI DESAI**

National security

Following Chinese aggression, the "paramount consideration" became building defence potential. Defence expenditure was increased to ₹867 crore. "Can we afford not to meet the challenge of the Chinese aggression? Would it be prudent to try and meet this challenge by forsaking our aspirations for development?"

YEAR: **1970-71**
FM: **INDIRA GANDHI**

Social justice

A shift towards reducing income disparities. "It is generally accepted that social, economic and political stability is not possible without the growth of productive forces and the augmentation of national wealth. Also, that such growth and increase in wealth cannot be sustained without due regard to the welfare of the weaker sections of the community."

YEAR: **1979-80**
FM: **CHARAN SINGH**

Rural focus

Eradicating poverty/unemployment by assigning "pride of place" to agriculture and rural development. "So long as there is great poverty and unemployment, particularly in the rural areas, and agriculture has the largest potential for generating employment, there can be no let up in the task of agricultural improvement. Our objective should be to raise productivity further."

Former Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, getting ready to leave for the Lok Sabha to present the Union Budget in New Delhi on February 28, 1970. HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

PHASE 3 · 1990–2000 · TURNING POINT: THE REFORM ERA

Former Union Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh going to the Parliament House in New Delhi with the Budget documents for presentation on Wednesday, July 24, 1991. SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY

YEAR: **1991-92**
FM: **MANMOHAN SINGH**

Liberalisation

Budget was presented during a "fiscal crisis" and "balance of payments" trouble. The focus shifted to "macro-economic stabilisation" and "structural reform" to integrate India with the world. "After four decades of planning for industrialisation, we have now reached a stage where we should welcome, rather than fear, foreign investment."

YEAR: **1994-95**
FM: **MANMOHAN SINGH**

A modern tax system

Focus on restoring the health of the banking sector and phasing out "ad hoc Treasury Bills" to strengthen fiscal and monetary discipline. "We must accelerate the reform and modernisation of our tax system... structure now proposed goes a long way towards the kind of modern tax system and moderate tax rates and an emphasis on compliance...,"

YEAR: **1999-2000**
FM: **YASHWANT SINHA**

Knowledge economy

"Jai Vigyan" became a tribute to scientists and innovators. "The time has come to unleash the creative potential of our scientists and innovators at grass roots level. Only then we can make India truly self-reliant and a leader in sustainable technologies. I propose a national foundation for helping innovators all over the country."

PHASE 4 · 2001–2013 · TECHNOLOGY IN FOCUS: INCLUSION & INFRA

YEAR: **2000-01**
FM: **YASHWANT SINHA**

Infotech revolution

Acknowledged the potential of IT firms. "Young Indian entrepreneurs are at the forefront of the infotech revolution, whether in Silicon Valley, Bangalore or Hyderabad. They have shown us how ideas, knowledge, entrepreneurship and technology can combine to yield unprecedented growth of incomes, employment and wealth."

YEAR: **2005-06**
FM: **P. CHIDAMBARAM**

Rural infrastructure

Launch of a business plan for rural infrastructure, among others. "Bharat Nirman ... has to be implemented over a period of four years, for building infrastructure, especially in rural India. It will have six components, namely, irrigation, roads, water supply, housing, rural electrification and rural telecom connectivity."

YEAR: **2008-09**
FM: **P. CHIDAMBARAM**

Debt relief

A massive agricultural debt waiver scheme was a prominent talking point. "Government is conscious of the dimensions of the problem and is sensitive to the difficulties of the farming community ... government estimates that about three crore small and marginal farmers and about one crore other farmers will benefit from the scheme."

Former Finance Minister, P. Chidambaram entering Parliament House to present the Union Budget in New Delhi on February 28, 2005. RAMESH SHARMA

PHASE 5 · 2014–2024 · MODERN ERA: ASPIRATIONAL INDIA

YEAR: **2014-15**
FM: **ARUN JAITLEY**

Smart Cities & Skill India

"One hundred Smart Cities" and "Skill India" to focus on employability and entrepreneurship. "For this it is proposed to launch a pan India programme 'Digital India' ... A National Rural Internet and Technology Mission for services in villages and schools, training in IT skills ... is also proposed."

YEAR: **2016-17**
FM: **ARUN JAITLEY**

Doubling farmers' income

A specific target was set to double the income of farmers by 2022. "Access to markets is critical for the income of farmers. The Government is implementing the Unified Agriculture Marketing Scheme which envisages a common e-market platform that will be deployed in selected 585 regulated wholesale markets."

YEAR: **2017-18**
FM: **ARUN JAITLEY**

Digital economy & GST

"Digital economy" to increase speed and transparency. "Demonetisation has strong potential to generate long-term benefits in terms of reduced corruption, greater digitisation of the economy ... We firmly believe that demonetisation and GST ... will have an epoch making impact on our economy."

YEAR: **2021-22**
FM: **NIRMALA SITHARAMAN**

Health & wellbeing

Following the pandemic, the Budget rested on six pillars, with 'health and wellbeing' as the first. "So far, only three times has a Budget followed a contraction in the economy. All such contractions were as a result of situations typical to India. This time, the contraction in our economy is due to a global pandemic ...,"

YEAR: **2023-24**
FM: **NIRMALA SITHARAMAN**

Seven priorities

Seven priorities including green growth, youth power, and the financial sector were established. "Our vision for the Amrit Kaal includes technology-driven and knowledge-based economy with strong public finances ... To achieve this, Jan Bhagidari through Sabka Saath Sabka Prayas is essential ..."

YEAR: **2024-25**
FM: **NIRMALA SITHARAMAN**

New definitions

A focus on four major castes: 'Garib' (Poor), 'Mahilayen' (Women), 'Yuva' (Youth) and 'Annadata' (Farmer). A new definition of GDP: 'Governance, Development and Performance'. "We believe in empowering the poor. The earlier approach of tackling poverty through entitlements had resulted in very modest outcomes."

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Nivedha M is interning with The Hindu Data Team

Actor pushes for Palestinian films, CM stops short of commitment

The 17th edition of Bengaluru International Film Festival was inaugurated at the Vidhana Soudha; Siddaramaiah says that one of the objectives of BIFFes is 'to create a platform to understand global realities through films from across the world'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Actor and filmmaker Prakash Raj, the brand ambassador of the 17th Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes), urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take a stand against the Centre's move and screen Palestinian films at BIFFes, during the inauguration of the festival on Thursday.

However, Mr. Siddaramaiah did not commit to the screening, though he reiterated that one of the objectives of BIFFes is "to create a platform to understand global realities through films from across the world."

The Chief Minister inaugurated the 17th BIFFes on the grand steps of the Vidhana Soudha, attended by Mr. Prakash Raj, Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj S. Horatti, actor Rukmini Vasanth, chairperson of the Karnataka Chalanachitra Academy Sadhu Kokila, Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, and others. This year too witnessed low attendance from the Kannada film industry.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, actor Prakash Raj, and others at the inauguration of the Bengaluru International Film Festival on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Mr. Prakash Raj, who unveiled the BIFFes promo, addressed the gathering and said the festival was launched 16 years ago with the spirit of a place like Ranganathittu, where birds from across the world arrive, but politics had now entered the festival and altered its purpose.

"Our Union government is not allowing us to screen Palestinian films. This has to be protested against, and as Chief Minister and as a government, you must take a stand," Mr. Prakash Raj said, addressing Mr. Siddaramaiah.

He cited his experiences of listening to Sunita Williams, Abdulrazak Gurnah, and German speakers at a literature festival recently to emphasise how platforms such as film festivals bring together diverse opinions, experiences, and thoughts, helping human consciousness grow.

Referring to Banu Mushtaq's *Heart Lamp*, whose stories depicting the pain and struggles of the land (Karnataka) won the International Booker Prize, Mr. Prakash Raj highlighted the need to screen Palestinian films. "When we celebrate the recognition of our stories, how can we endorse the prohibition of bringing stories from other lands to our State?" he asked.

Pointing to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's decision to ensure the screening of Palestinian films at their film festival, Mr. Prakash Raj urged Mr. Siddaramaiah to take a similar stand. He also recited lines from Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish's poem *The war will end* to express solidarity with the suffering of the common people there.

Speaking soon after Mr. Prakash Raj, Mr. Arshad said: "Mr. Siddaramaiah is a leader who has confronted powerful leaders and has always stood with the people. Whether Palestinian or any other films, our stage must screen them. If Mr. Siddaramaiah's government cannot do it, no one can."

Chief Minister's note

Despite the heightened expectations after that, Mr. Siddaramaiah neither committed to nor mentioned the screening of Palestinian films. However, he acknowledged Mr. Prakash Raj's concerns and reiterated that BIFFes aims to provide a platform to understand politics, life, equality and inequality, and suffering across countries.

He also quoted Kannada poet Kuvempu's *Sarva Janangada Shantiya Thota* (peaceful garden of all communities) to emphasise Karnataka's culture but did not directly state that Palestinian films would be screened.

Screenings

Film screenings at BIFFes will begin on January 30 and continue until February 6. The theme for this edition is *"Stree endare ashte saake?"*, with focus on women.

The festival will feature 240 films, including 70 from abroad. Of the total, over 65 films are directed by women. Screenings will be held at Lulu Mall in Rajajinagar, Dr. Rajkumar Bhavana, Kalavidara Sangha in Chamarajapet, and the Suchitra Film Society in Banashankari.

Occupants of demolished sheds in Kogilu Layout not shifting to shelters: Govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government on Thursday told the High Court of Karnataka that occupants of the now demolished illegal sheds on the encroached government land in Kogilu Layout are not shifting to temporary shelters provided to them in four community halls and a few of them were coming to the shelters only to have food.

A file photo of the sheds demolished at Kogilu Layout.

Those who had put up illegal constructions on encroached land are continuing to reside in the same land by putting up new temporary sheds, even though the authorities have made arrangements for around 240 persons in the community halls, the government said.

State Advocate-General K. Shashi Kiran Shetty gave this information to a Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Poonacha, during the hearing of a PIL petition filed by Zaiba Tabassum, 28, Rehana, 25, and Areefa Begum, 49, who were among the persons evicted from the two colonies.

When counsel for the petitioners claimed that there are no proper facilities in the community halls, the A-G denied the claim while stating that the authorities would present a video footage of the status of community halls before the Bench. The A-G also turned down the plea by the petitioners' advocate for supplying food at the site of the demolished structures.

After May 2025

Earlier, the A-G said that a large number of illegal temporary sheds mushroomed post May 2025 as satellite images disclose that 70 of them surfaced after then. There were no structures in this land in 2013 as it was a abandoned quarry pit on government land.

Pointing out that after the closure of quarrying activities, the pit was used as a landfill for municipal solid waste after it was handed over to the erstwhile Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike during 2014-16, Mr. Shetty said satellite images show that a few temporary structures were illegally put up on this landfill, which is not suitable for human living.

The claim of the petitioners that residents of demolished illegal structures were residing in the two illegal colonies for about 30 years is blatantly false, the BSWML has stated.

'Visited many times'

Denying the allegation that the illegal structures were demolished without any intimation, the BSWML has said that the officials had visited these colonies multiple times since November 2025 and cautioned the occupants of these structures.

Govt. employees advised to wear khadi on first Saturdays

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a move aimed at promoting traditional attire and supporting the State-run Khadi and Village Industries Board, the Karnataka government has advised its employees to wear khadi on the first Saturday of every month.

The decision was taken at a meeting held at the Vidhana Soudha on Thursday chaired by Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, in the presence of State Government Employees' Association president C.S. Shadakshari and officials of the Khadi and Village Industries Board. A government circular in this regard was issued later on Thursday.

Mr. Shadakshari told *The Hindu* that the move is aimed at encouraging the use of khadi products and fostering a preference for swadeshi clothing among government staff.

"Following the meeting, we have issued an advisory. This decision will also apply to employees of government-owned corporations, boards, authorities, universities, and aided institutions," he said.

Govt. outlets

He said government employees would be required to purchase khadi garments only from government-run outlets. In addition to the existing discount offered on khadi products, the board has decided to extend a special discount of 5% to government staff, he said.

As per the decision, male employees can wear khadi shirts and trousers or overcoats, while women can opt for khadi or khadi silk saris, or khadi churidars.

Mr. Shadakshari said the advisory will come into effect from April 21, which is observed as Government Employees' Day.

Alongside the promotion of khadi, the meeting also discussed various other welfare measures for employees.

To supply essential commodities and daily-use goods at concessional rates, a proposal to establish a Government Employees' Canteen through Mysore Sales International Limited (MSIL), on the lines of Defence canteens, was mooted.

Travel operators seek relocation of toll plazas at city entry points

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association (KSTOA) has urged the State government to reconsider the location of toll plazas at Bengaluru's entry points, citing the increased financial burden on daily commuters.

In a letter addressed to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar recently, the association said that residents of both Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts are being forced to pay toll even for short-distance daily travel into the city.

According to KSTOA, prevailing norms generally allow tol l exemptions within a 20-km radius of urban areas. Collecting toll almost at the city's entry points, therefore, raises concerns over equity and fairness.

Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association has said that residents of Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts are being forced to pay toll even for short-distance daily travel into the city. FILE PHOTO

KSTOA president K. Radhakrishna Holla said: "The Bengaluru region currently has 13 toll plazas spread across around 236 km of tolled highways, the highest concentration in Karnataka. In comparison, districts such as Belagavi, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, and Hassan have longer tolled highway stretches but significantly fewer toll plazas, leading to fewer toll payments for commuters there."

Canara Bank's net profit at ₹5,155 cr. in Q3

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Canara Bank, a city-headquartered public sector lender, has posted third quarter net profit of ₹5,155 crore, marking a 26% year-on-year growth up from ₹4,104 crore in the corresponding quarter a year ago.

The bank said Q3 performance was supported by higher treasury income and a consistent enhancement in asset quality, Hardeep Singh Ahluwalia, Managing Director and CEO (interim), indicated while addressing a media conference here on Thursday. Its operating profit grew by 16.36% to ₹9,119.47 crore.

Total income

During the quarter, the bank recorded a total income of ₹39,880.96 crore, a 10.43% rise over ₹36,113.77 crore a year ago.

The bank's performance was driven by a 25.61% YoY rise in net profit to ₹5,155.11 crore, with operating profit growing by 16.36% to ₹9,119.47 crore. Its net interest income (NII) grew to ₹9,252.32 crore, a 1.13% rise.

In Q3, the bank saw its global business growing at ₹27,13,594 crore, a 13.23% growth, its global deposit stood at ₹15,21,268 crore, growing at 12.95%, while gross advances touched ₹11,92,326 crore, a 13.59% growth over the same period in the previous year. Its domestic deposit stood at ₹13,97,045 crore, while domestic advances (gross) at ₹11,19,289 crore, a 11.1% and 3.34% YoY growth, respectively.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JAN. 30		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:20
RISE	15:46	SET 04:11
SATURDAY, JAN. 31		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:20
RISE	16:51	SET 05:13
SUNDAY, FEB. 01		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:20
RISE	17:55	SET 06:10

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	30	15
Bengaluru	28	16

Bengaluru Today
30°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

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THE HINDU
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Smart City Projects in State failed to mobilise financial resources: CAG

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Smart Cities had projected revenue generation of ₹7,409.12 crore over five to 30 years

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has found that seven cities in Karnataka – Bengaluru, Belagavi, Davanagere, Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Shivamogga, and Tumakuru – selected under the Smart Cities Mission failed to mobilise financial resources and were largely dependent on mission grants.

The CAG report, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, said that although the seven cities proposed projects worth ₹2,907.38 crore under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, projects worth only ₹1,091.05 crore were taken up, of which just 13 projects valued at ₹329.68 crore were completed.

While the Smart Cities had projected revenue generation of ₹7,409.12 crore over a period ranging from five to 30 years, they implemented only 53 projects – about 8% – out of 645 projects envisaged under the revenue-generation model. The Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development Corporation (KUIDFC) is the nodal agency for implementing Smart City projects in the State.

The report further noted that against an allocation of ₹817.72 crore under the pan-city component, projects worth ₹1,462.67 crore were taken up, indicating a diversion of funds from area-based development (ABD) to pan-city interventions.

The Smart City Proposals had envisaged the development of smart roads in accordance with the TenderSure guidelines.

However, except in Bengaluru, the utility ducts provided in smart road projects by other cities did not accommodate all required utilities, resulting in frequent digging of newly laid smart roads to install utility lines.

Idle projects

The CAG also pointed out that infrastructure created in Hubballi-Dharwad at a cost of ₹62.60 crore – including the upgradation of Chittaguppi Hospital, development of a fish market, renovation of the core market, and construction of one-BHK units under the Vani Vilas Development Initiative – have remained idle for over two years.

'Early diagnosis key to tackling skin diseases'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With skin disorders emerging as a growing public health concern, there is a pressing need for early diagnosis and greater public awareness about evidence-based dermatological care, Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development Sharan Prakash Patil said on Wednesday.

Speaking after inaugurating DERMACON Bengaluru 2026, the 54th national conference of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists (IADVL), the Minister said skin health was often underestimated despite its direct impact on the quality of life. "Timely medical intervention and scientifically validated treatment are crucial to preventing complications and long-term morbidity," he said.

The Minister underlined the importance of taking dermatological care beyond hospitals and academic institutions. He commended IADVL for its outreach initiatives that seek to bridge the gap between advances in dermatology and community-level skin care.

Two arrested for bomb hoax claim at airport

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The airport police on Wednesday arrested a 52-year-old cloth merchant and his associate for allegedly creating panic in the check-in area by falsely claiming that they were carrying a bomb in their luggage.

One of the arrested has been identified as Abu Aqeel Azhar Chad, a resident of Wilson Garden.

The accused were questioned and later released on station bail, the police said.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
Office of the Additional Chief Engineer,
RushikulyaBahuda Basin, Berhampur-760004
e-mail id: se_sicbam@yahoo.com

e - Procurement Notice No. - ACE,RBB - 06/2025-26

1. Type of Work : Flood protection Works.
2. Total No of Works : 01 (One) No.
3. Amount put to tender : Rs.393.66 Lakh
4. Period of Completion : 09 (Nine) calendar months.
5. Class of Contractor : 'A'

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Name of Work	Bid Amount (Rs. in Lakh)	Availability & Submission of Bid On-line
Additional Chief Engineer, Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur	ACE, RBB(BNID)-08/2025-26	Improvement to RFB of river Rushikulya near village Pakidi under Aska Block.	393.66	From 02.02.2026, 10.00 A.M. to 16.02.2026, 5.00 P.M.

Date of opening of the Technical Bid:- **17.02.2026 at 11.30 A.M.**
Further details can be seen from the Govt. website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Additional Chief Engineer,
Rushikulya Bahuda Basin, Berhampur.

32001/7/2526
OIPR-32001/32411/1/25-26/0007

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Vehicles parked haphazardly on S.P. Road in Bengaluru. According the BTP data, there are around 1,100 no-parking stretches across the city. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Solving the city's parking puzzle

While paid parking is being introduced on more stretches and towing is set to make a comeback in Bengaluru, **Chetan B.C.** explores if these measures are enough to solve Bengaluru's traffic maze

Since October 2025, Anish (name changed), a private company employee, has been spending an additional ₹1,800 every month just to park his two-wheeler on M.G. Road. The return of paid parking on one of the busiest stretches in Bengaluru, after a lull of nearly two years, has quietly altered his monthly budget.

In contrast, his colleague Navya R., who commutes from Yelahanka, has switched to public transport. While the shift has helped her save some money, it comes with its own challenges: longer travel time and poor last-mile connectivity.

For Anish, however, public transport is not an option. His job involves fieldwork, and his motorcycle remains essential.

This dilemma in daily commute choices may soon become common across Bengaluru. City corporations have floated tenders to implement paid parking on more than 30 road stretches as part of a pilot project, signalling a broader push to monetise public spaces and regulate on-street parking.

Return of paid parking

According to the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP), 291 major road stretches across the city currently allow free parking. Of these, 52 roads have been identified as suitable for the introduction of paid parking. If the pilot project yields the desired results, officials say, the system could be expanded citywide. If everything goes as planned, by the beginning of April, paid parking system will be in place across the city.

Karthik Reddy, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), said the list was prepared after considering factors such as traffic flow, availability of space, and public convenience.

A Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) official added that the corporations have further filtered these stretches and floated tenders for implementation, in line with Parking Policy 2.0 drafted by the Directorate of Urban Land and Transport (DULT).

Most civic groups, traffic police officials, and urban planners have welcomed the move.

R. Rajagopal of Bengaluru Coalition put it this way: "We have enjoyed free parking for all these years, which was a missed opportunity for the corporation to generate revenue."

The idea to resume paid parking was discussed when the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was functional, and then Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao had directed the East Division to resume paid parking on M.G. Road. Two months into the new system, motorists quickly adapted to the mandate, as there were few-to-no alternatives.

The response not only prompted the City Central Corporation to expand the system, but also influenced other corporations to adopt the model. However, concerns remain over the rate structure, the implementation plan, and whether the exercise will really address traffic congestion.

> Paid parking brings order to streets, discourages long-term occupation of public space, and can improve traffic flow
>
> **RAVICHANDAR,** Urban planner

Push for paid parking

The renewed focus on paid parking coincides with the formation of five new city corporations. On September 2, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar repeatedly highlighted that splitting the city would encourage competition among corporations and open up new revenue streams. Paid parking has emerged as one such source of revenue.

V. Ravichandar, a civic evangelist and urban planner, argues that roads are valuable city assets, and must be used efficiently. "Paid parking brings order to streets, discourages long-term occupation of public space, and can improve traffic flow when combined with enforcement," he said.

R.K. Misra, independent director of BSMILE, explained that planned enforcement coupled with systematic paid parking can address micro-level traffic issues, which, in turn, improves vehicle flow.

A Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) in Bengaluru explained the phenomenon: "Haphazard parking, even in areas where parking is permitted, reduces available of space and encourages parking in connecting roads or sub-arterial roads. When residential parking increases, even smaller roads get cluttered, and the congestion spillover indirectly affects main roads as well." In the case of paid parking, there will be a structured system to accommodate more vehicles, he added.

Globally, paid parking is viewed as a demand management tool. By putting a price on parking, cities attempt to influence travel behaviour, discourage unnecessary private vehicle use, and promote public transport, according to urban planners.

However, they also cautioned that paid parking alone will not reduce congestion. Without complementary measures, such as improved public transport, residential parking regulation, and consistent enforcement, the policy risks simply displacing the problem, they said.

Towing makes a comeback

Alongside paid parking, the BTP is resuming towing operations to curb improper parking, though this will be limited to high-density corridors. While the move may reduce congestion on specific stretches, it may not complement paid parking to the extent that the corporations and BTP anticipate because towing itself is subject to restrictions. As per the parking policy, towing may be carried out only when an illegally parked vehicle obstructs pedestrian movement or traffic flow.

The policy further states: "The civic agency may strive to ensure that the need for towing of vehicles is minimised through effective communication and active monitoring of parking lots, as extensive towing operations usually lead to undesirable obstruction to vehicle movement on roads."

However, this time, illegal parking is expected to be costly for violators, which could encourage positive behaviour and curb the problem to some extent. With both the civic body and the BTP jointly implementing towing, fines will be collected by the BTP, while towing charges will be levied by the civic body.

The rates are yet to be finalised, but this could also pose enforcement challenges.

One major drawback of paid parking is the spillover into residential areas. For instance, Rest House Road is often filled with illegally parked vehicles. When paid parking was introduced on M.G. Road, traffic police reported an increase in illegal parking along the stretch, as people were unwilling to pay for parking. The only way to penalise such behaviour is through clamping, but the number of vehicles that can be clamped is limited.

> Even if I reach the bus stop on time, I have to squeeze in with hundreds of people. I am forced to shift to buses due to the parking fee
>
> **NAVYA,** a commuter

This situation is likely to affect other paid parking zones as well.

Compounding the issue, there are around 1,100 no-parking stretches across the city, according to BTP data, which could further exacerbate the problem.

"There should have been a separate plan for residential parking, as it is a definite outcome of paid parking implementation. With no restriction on parking on residential streets, this will turn into a community issue, and could also trigger law-and-order problems, with potential for verbal altercations and physical confrontations," the DCP said.

Civic activist Dattatraya Devare said the initial draft of the parking policy had acknowledged this issue, and suggested residential parking charges as well. However, public backlash forced DULT to remove the provision.

In such a scenario, Devare said, there should have been adjustments in paid parking prices to ensure better enforcement. Currently, two-wheelers are charged ₹15 per hour and four-wheelers around ₹30 per hour. This pricing could be burdensome in some areas, such as ITPL, M.G. Road, and Hoodi, where commercial establishments and office spaces are concentrated. A slight change, such as reducing the two-wheeler fee to ₹10 per hour, could encourage motorists to use designated parking facilities, he suggested.

For example, near Yelahanka New Town, a paid parking system was introduced a few months ago, with the charge set at ₹10 for two hours. The area has seen a positive response, although residential parking remains an issue.

Additionally, city corporations must focus on expanding public transport infrastructure, Devare said. "Expanding the public transport fleet is always beneficial for a city. In fact, there should be room for private players as well," Misra added.

Bengaluru currently has a BMTC fleet of over 7,000 buses, serving close to 50 lakh people, even as the city's estimated population stands at 1.4 crore. This indicates that the country's largest public transport fleet still falls short of meeting the city's needs. The gap is further exacerbated by poor last-mile connectivity and delays in the expansion of the Namma Metro network. In the absence of a private bus fleet, cabs and autorickshaws in the city have become an expensive option.

Navya, for instance, travels daily to M.G. Road from Yelahanka 4th Phase. She either has to take a direct bus, which runs infrequently, or travel to Majestic by bus and then board a metro train. As a result, she faces significant inconvenience, especially during peak hours.

"Even if I reach the bus stop on time, I have to squeeze in with hundreds of people, or skip one bus and wait for the next. This is why private vehicles are a desirable option, but I am forced to shift to buses due to the parking fee," she said.

With the implementation of paid parking, the civic body should have coordinated with transport agencies to ensure commuters are not inconvenienced when they shift travel modes.

Governance and management

The parking policy clearly states that parking funds must be ring-fenced and used by the civic agency only for development works related to pedestrian safety, road safety, non-motorised transport (NMT) infrastructure, footpath improvement, enhancement of public spaces for pedestrians (such as avenue tree planting), improvement of transit infrastructure, subsidisation of public transport, and public awareness campaigns on parking and sustainable mobility.

The policy also recommends the use of modern technology for parking management, including on-street meters, automated boom barriers, CCTV cameras, computerised parking slips with timers, variable message signboards, and mobile applications.

It further proposes the creation of an integrated Central Parking Portal hosted by the civic agency, which would display real-time information on parking availability across the city. However, civic bodies have moved ahead without addressing these aspects.

A source within a corporation confirmed that no action plan has been prepared to channel revenue from paid parking, and there is no proposal for any development project to be funded through this revenue. "The primary focus is on increasing revenue for the new corporations," the official said.

As a result, the broader objective of the policy remains unfulfilled. The policy envisages using parking revenue to reduce parking demand by improving sustainable mobility options so that, over time, reliance on private vehicles decreases, and land allocated for parking can be reclaimed for more productive use.

Despite this, civic groups welcome the move, stating that paid parking is the need of the hour to improve civic sense among citizens. However, Navya says, "I would have to revert to my private vehicle because public transport is tiring to access, especially after a long work day."

Vehicles parked at pay and park place on Commercial Street. Alongside paid parking, the BTP is resuming towing operations to curb improper parking. SUDHAKARA JAIN

As Attakkalari marks turning 25 with two performances, founder Jayachandran Palazhy reflects on Bengaluru, creative risk, and building a home for contemporary dance

Poetry in motion A scene from one of the performances. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The house that dance built

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As renowned contemporary dance company Attakkalari celebrates its silver jubilee years this year, founder Jayachandran Palazhy sees "two interconnected strands" that have shaped the organisation's journey over the last 25 years: key institutional breakthroughs and defining creative milestones.

"In our earlier days of setting up in Bengaluru, the dancers and I used to travel to our makeshift studio on bicycles and I even used to cook lunch for them," he says, adding that things changed once funding came in from the Sir Ratan Tata Trust (now Tata Trusts). This support enabled the team to establish Attakkalari's first permanent base in Wilson Garden wherein an old garage and workshop was converted into studios, offices, and technology spaces. "That modest beginning made it possible to launch long-term initiatives such as the Diploma in Movement Arts and Pedagogy and Sankshipta."

Today, Attakkalari functions from a four-storey rented building with three studios, a theatre, café and a space for their tech division. Now in the works is the Centre for Innovation in Performing Arts (CIPA) that will include two indoor theatres, a large amphitheatre, multiple studios, an audio-visual library, and an incubation centre for new works. "Dedicated facilities will house a Kalarippayattu pit and wellness centre, a stage technology resource centre, exhibition spaces, and a restaurant," explains Jayachandran.

To commemorate the silver jubilee, "a double bill that reflects both our roots and our global outlook" has been planned. The evening will open with Geometry of Becoming, a 25-minute outdoor, site-specific work inspired by the sacred geometry of rangoli.

"Reflecting Bengaluru's diversity and creative energy, the piece treats Rangoli as a metaphor for performance. The choreography is imagined as tributaries with distinct geometric forms, movement vocabularies, and musical identities," Jayachandran says of the piece he has choreographed.

The second presentation titled Sonnet of Samsara is an hour-long production that has been performed in the UK and Italy. "Commissioned by the Serendipity Arts Festival and produced by Attakkalari in collaboration with Kinetika Design Studio, London, with support from the British Council, the work responds to the climate emergency, environmental crises, conflicts, and deepening societal divisions," he says of the piece that draws from myths, memories, lived experience, and imagination.

As Jayachandran looks back at the last few decades he explains how, earlier, discussions around contemporary dance "were often marked by suspicion and framed as a polarity between traditional and contemporary aesthetics".

That has changed today, Jayachandran says. "Across Bengaluru and increasingly across India, artists are asking vital questions, developing innovative strategies, and creating original, often transdisciplinary works," he says. Dance, he adds, has always been integral to Indian culture. "A few centuries ago, it enjoyed both high social status and economic viability. After all, even our gods dance. During my years in the UK, I was regularly invited by the Arts Council of England and National Dance Agencies to contribute to policy discussions on dance and the performing arts. In India, such platforms are still largely absent."

Hence, his vision for CIPA. "For such a vision to succeed, it requires sustained interest, investment, and collective responsibility from society and government alike. Despite every challenge, dance remains deeply embedded in our culture, our lives, and our very sense of being, and it will continue to endure," concludes Jayachandran.

Geometry of Becoming and Sonnet of Samsara is on January 31 at Prestige Centre for Performing Arts (PCPA), 6 pm onwards. Tickets on bookmyshow.com

The weight of a second

Kannada play *Ond Second* from WeMove Theatre follows a man who introspects about an incident from the past that changed his future

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We do not come across many one-person shows in Kannada, which is why *Ond Second* from WeMove Theatre stands out, in more ways than just this. The play, an adaptation of a Chinese short story translated into Kannada by writer Gopalakrishna Pai, has been adapted for the theatre by playwright and director Abhishek Iyengar.

Ond Second, starring Anirudh Mahesh (one of the writers of *Kanthara: Chapter 1*), involves introspection into an incident that happened in the character's past and his reaction to it.

With peppy music in the background sounding like a nostalgic Kannada poem from school, the play follows a man who, on the verge of fulfilling his lofty dreams, is forced to change his future in a split second because of an accident. What follows is his recovery in the hospital and his reaction to the incident.

When the actor thanks his tote bag for keeping all his documents together, the scene is a farcical comment on the essence of a mundane human experience. Anirudh Mahesh poignantly embodies *Manushya's* (man) reality, making the audience feel that he is everyone, and it could happen to anyone. The play's universality stands out, and this is the reaction Abhishek was hoping for, he says.

"We often say, "*ond second iru, ond second call madtini, ond second barthini*" (wait for one second, I'll call you in one second, I'll be there in a second)," Abhishek said speaking from his home in Basaweshwaranagar in Bengaluru. "'One second' is important, but we use it casually, without fully realising its power. Mostly, it is just another second, which fades into history, but at times, it causes something so significant that it makes us repeatedly return to the moment. I wanted to show the importance of that one second, and let the audience reflect on what it means to them."

The play has a few common characters, all played by Anirudh including a narrator, who breaks the fourth wall occasionally, the main character, a doctor, a friend and a student. "I wanted to break the monotony. That is why we thought Anirudh could do different voices and play all characters."

Succinct *Ond Second* is a mono-act in Kannada, directed by Abhishek Iyengar and performed by Anirudh Mahesh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The writer-director says one more reason to experiment with this format was to direct a play, where all the props could be easily transported. However, challenges persist, he admits.

"Theatre is a collaborative art form, and being a mono-act, *Ond Second* conveys only one perspective. To make it multidimensional, I had to bring in the audience and work from their reactions. I have never been as experimental as this before."

Every actor's dream

Associated with theatre since 2012, Anirudh always wanted to try a mono-act, for he believes it is every actor's dream. Speaking from WeMove's rehearsal space in Jayanagar, he says, "When there are multiple actors, it's easier to convey the emotion to the audience. When it's just one actor, it's difficult because it's my voice alone on stage, even though there are small differences in tone and modulation."

For Anirudh, theatre is happiness. Being associated with big projects in Kannada, including *Kanthara: A Legend Chapter 1*, *Laughing Buddha*, *Avane Srimannarayana*, *777 Charlie*, theatre is home he returns to. "Acting on stage is akin to drinking water when parched. I can explore many facets of a theme on stage. Take this play for instance, we decided to explore this story through emotions and dialogues, shifting focus from props and sets."

Chef Manuel Olveira speaks about his childhood, his Bandra menu, and the path that led him to Mumbai

Spain on a plate

Anagha Maareesha
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Palate pleaser Chef Manuel Olveira and his creation. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chef Manuel Olveira grew up in Toledo in Spain. "Some of my clearest childhood memories are of Sundays in Spain, all of us gathered outdoors around a paella pan bubbling over an open fire. Those moments shaped the way I think about food – simple, generous and meant to be shared." The chef has now made Mumbai his home, where he runs two restaurants, La Loca Maria and La Panthera, in Bandra. This weekend, La Panthera comes to Bengaluru for a three-day pop-up at The Conservatory.

The meal will begin with tapas, such as beetroot carpaccio with wasabi on delicate filo, hand-cut steak tartare with crisp potato, truffle oil and parmesan, and the bloody Mary ceviche.

Alongside these are comfort-driven favourites such as scamorza arancini, a molten baked brie with caramelised onions and spicy almond brittle, and a smoky, paprika-kissed charred octopus. "Pizzas are a big part of what defines La Panthera, so they naturally follow," says the chef.

The mains include hand-rolled cacio e pepe, grilled sea bass comes with pok choi, shiitake, charred leeks and horseradish edamame. Dessert ends on a familiar note with tiramisu, but the La Panthera way.

₹2,500 per head. January 30 - February 1. At The Conservatory, Shanti Nagar, Bengaluru. For reservations, call 7338677996

STEPOUT

Book talk

A literary talk about *Thēe Forged Butterfly*, a personal memoir, will be held. As part of the session, moderated by Mugdha Kalra, the book's author Logambal Raaga Sundaram will be in conversation with Neeraja and Shalini Saraswathi.

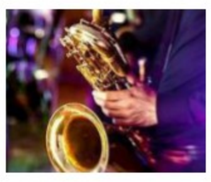
At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar, on February 1, between 11am and 12.30pm. The session is free and open to all.

Theatre tales

BlindSpot, a MISF!T production, will be staged this weekend. The play, directed by Venkatesan Vaidhyanathan and Vishal Nayer, tells the story of psychiatrist Anika Sharma, who must navigate a web of lies and confront memory's malleability.

At Medai-The Stage, Koramangala on January 31, 7.30pm and February 1, 3.30pm. Tickets, priced at ₹300, are available on BookMyShow.com

All that jazz



The ninth edition of the Jazz India Circuit, a gateway to the best in contemporary jazz, returns with a lineup including Bengaluru's Derek & The Cats and the Benny Greb Brass Band from Germany.

At Gilly's Redefined, Koramangala on February 4, 7.30pm onwards. Tickets available on Urbanaut.

Leadership tussle casts shadow on polls to Apex Bank chairman's post

The election has been postponed indefinitely after the former chairman Belli Prakash withdrew his nomination at the behest of the Chief Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After the logjam in Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF), Apex Bank seems to have become the latest casualty in the leadership tussle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

The election to the post of chairman of Apex Bank, scheduled for Thursday, has been indefinitely postponed after former chairman Belli Prakash, a former BJP legislator from Kadur, withdrew his nomination at the behest of the Chief Minister. The five-year tenure of Mr. Prakash ended in December 2025. Sharanagouda Bayyapur had filed nominations for the post of vice-chairman.

The Congress is undecided about the candidate for the chairman's post as former Minister K.N. Rajanna, backed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and MLC S. Ravi, a relative of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, are among the contenders. FILE PHOTO

IAS officer S. Ziaullah has been posted as the bank's administrator now.

Confirming to *The Hindu* that he had withdrawn his nomination forcing the postponement of elections, Mr. Prakash, the lone candidate in the fray, said that he had done so "in the interest of the financial institution". "I did not want to politicise the issue and hence withdrew my nomination. Also, election to chairman's post has always been unanimous," he said.

Within the Congress, the leaders are undecided about the candidate for the chairman's post as the other two contenders are former Minister K.N. Rajanna, backed by the Chief Minister, and MLC S. Ravi, a relative of the Deputy Chief Minister. Congress sources said that though meetings have been held multiple times to address the issue, the candidate could not be finalised. Incidentally, the Co-operation portfolio is held by the Chief Minister after Mr. Rajanna was removed from the post.

"The matter has even reached the Congress central leaders, and AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Surjewala has spoken to the Chief Minister," sources added.

Apex Bank sources said that Mr. Prakash withdrew after speaking to the Chief Minister since remaining in the fray would have made him elected unopposed. "The Congress is yet to make up its mind on the candidate, and since the legislature session is under way, the decision has been delayed," said the source.

Of the 21 district cooperative banks that send director-representatives to the Apex Bank, 18 were eligible to vote on Thursday. While election has not been held in Bagalkot DCC bank due to court cases, the Kolar DCC bank election has been held but has reached the court. The Mysuru DCC bank representatives were nominated after the electoral roll was drawn and hence became ineligible, sources said.

Earlier tussle

The political tug of war between the two leaders had earlier played out in election to the post of Chairman of KMF.

While D.K. Suresh, brother of the Deputy Chief Minister and now the Bengaluru Milk Union Ltd. president, was in the race to head the milk cooperative behemoth, the Chief Minister is learnt to have pushed for Congress legislator from Koppal K. Raghavendra Hitnal. The KMF Chairman's post is still lying vacant.

George denies rumours of quitting

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

K.J. George

Energy Minister K.J. George on Thursday dismissed rumours of his resignation, which had surfaced following allegations of interference in his Department by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra, an MLC.

The Chief Minister also clarified that Mr. George had not resigned. The clarification was later reiterated by the Minister himself on the floor of the Legislative Assembly.

Seeking clarification in the House after media reports on the issue, BJP member V. Sunil Kumar raised the matter, to which Mr. George responded that he continued to enjoy the confidence of the Chief Minister and had not stepped down from his post.

It was alleged that Mr. Yathindra had interfered in the functioning of the Energy Department, following which Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh issued a notice to Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Managing Director of the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL). Reports suggested that Mr. George was upset over the issuance of the notice and had conveyed his displeasure to the Chief Minister.

However, Mr. George later clarified that Mr. Yathindra had not interfered in the functioning of his department.

BJP, JD(S) accuse govt. of misusing taxpayers' money for advertisements on new job scheme

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP and JD (S) members in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday accused the ruling Congress government of "looting taxpayers' money" by issuing full-page advertisements criticising the NDA government's Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) scheme.

The BJP and JD(S) members said they had no objection to the Congress party issuing advertisements in newspapers, but objected to advertisements being released by the Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department, which they termed "illegal".

The entire Opposition staged a walkout after Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge defended the advertisements and said similar advertisements would be issued in newspapers in the national capital to highlight what he described as the drawbacks of the Centre's new job scheme. The government has convened a special session of the State legislature to pass a resolution condemning the VB-G RAM G scheme and to demand restoration of MGNREGA of the UPA regime.

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok alleged that public money had been misused to strain Centre-State relations.

As soon as the House assembled, BJP members S. Suresh Kumar and V. Sunil Kumar, along with JD(S) member C.B. Suresh Babu, sought an explanation from the government on the purpose and merits of the advertisements.

'Public money misused'

Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok alleged that public money had been misused to strain Centre-State relations.

He accused the Congress government of using taxpayers' money to promote party related matters by publishing advertisements against a Central government scheme.

Instead of criticising the scheme, Mr. Ashok said the government could have used Mahatma Gandhi's photograph to create awareness on issues such as de-addiction, or for campaigns like Swachh Bharat. He also alleged that the advertisements were factually incorrect and insulting to the Father of the Nation.

Mr. Suresh Kumar termed the issue of advertisements the "biggest crime," while BJP State president and member B.Y. Vijayendra alleged that liquor shops were found every 500 metres, with fewer medical stores in comparison.

Responding to the allegations, Mr. Kharge accused the BJP of ignoring the fact that the Centre runs largely on taxes collected from Karnataka. A disproportionate share of tax revenue is being devolved to States like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, he said, while Karnataka was denied its due share.

'From being *Huliya*, CM now reduced to being helpless'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was "reduced to helplessness" to the extent of affecting the State's administration, BJP member V. Sunil Kumar on Wednesday taunted him by asking if it was caused by *putra vyamoha* (love towards son) or frequent reminders on stepping down from the post.

V. Sunil Kumar

"Earlier, people would call you *Huliya* (man who is like a tiger). But your own party leaders now say that you are not the earlier Siddaramaiah," Mr. Sunil Kumar told the Chief Minister in the Assembly while participating in a motion of thanks to the Governor's address.

"Your helplessness is marked by the fact that you could not retain your own man K.N. Rajanna in your Cabinet," he remarked. "The demolition of encroachers of government land in Kogilu Layout of Bengaluru too demonstrated your helplessness as you rushed to protect the encroachers soon after your party bosses stood by them."

Accusing the Congress government of maladministration and large-scale corruption, Mr. Sunil Kumar alleged that the government was toeing the path of friction to divert public attention. "First they picked the Union government and accused it of showing bias in release of central grants. They even attacked Election Commission of India. They have not spared anyone, including the film industry and Kannada Sahitya Parishat. This is just to cover up their own failures," he alleged.

Even the law and order machinery in the Congress regime had become "selective" as it had different parameters to handle Congress leaders and others, he alleged. "This government has not just changed the caps of police, but also changed their attitude so that they are pro-Congress," he said.

From Page One

CAG flags irregularities in Yettinahole project

According to the report, the project cost escalated by 179%, rising from ₹8,323.50 crore in 2012 to ₹23,251.66 crore in 2023. Despite more than a decade of work, the project remains far from completion, leading to prolonged delays in delivering drinking water to drought-prone Kolar and Chickballapur districts, which face acute water scarcity.

Even after an expenditure of ₹15,297 crore as of March 2024, the project's primary objective of providing drinking water to the two districts remains unfulfilled, the CAG noted.

The audit further observed that the availability of water in the weirs during the five-year period from 2018 to 2023 ranged between 7.20 tmcft and 24.70 tmcft, significantly lower than the proposed 32.15 tmcft envisaged in the Detailed Project Report (DPR). This mismatch resulted in the creation of infrastructure such as pipelines and pumping machinery with higher-than-required capacity, raising concerns about inefficiency and potential water shortages.

The storage capacity of the balancing reservoir – considered a crucial component for ensuring summer water supply to Kolar and Chickballapur – was revised twice and reduced from 10 tmcft to 2 tmcft, leading to an additional cost of ₹621.45 crore. The report also pointed out that land acquisition for the construction of the balancing reservoir at Lakkenahalli has not yet begun.

The CAG warned that Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd. faces financial uncertainty, with an estimated ₹7,954.63 crore still required to complete the project.

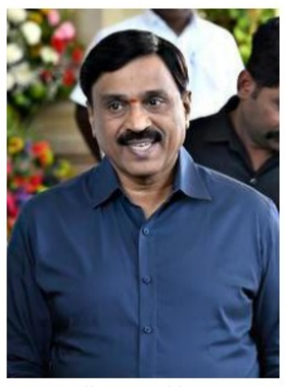
Lack of synchronisation between Phase-I and Phase-II works resulted in fragmented execution, creating infrastructure in isolated patches. Assets worth ₹2,965.77 crore created under Phase-I could not be utilised due to the non-completion of Phase-II components such as the gravity canal and balancing reservoir needed to convey the lifted water, the report said.

As a result, electro-mechanical equipment, including pumps and motors, could not be tested or commissioned and remains idle, consuming a significant portion of its useful life, the report added.

Gali lashes out at DKS, asks Siddaramaiah to stay on as CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The clashes in Ballari in front of BJP MLA G. Janardhana Reddy's residence took a new twist in the Assembly on Thursday, with Mr. Reddy launching a tirade against Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar for his stand on the incidents and remarking that he should not become the Chief Minister.



G. Janardhana Reddy

"Though there was an effort by the local Congress MLA to attack me, the Deputy Chief Minister stood with him. He has ridiculed my position by saying that I can get security from Iran or organise a group of volunteers from the BJP to protect me. It is for his party to decide whether he is fit to hold his post," Mr. Janardhana Reddy remarked in the Assembly while participating in a motion of thanks to the Governor's address.

Continuing his attack on Mr. Shivakumar, who aspires to be the Chief Minister, Mr. Reddy remarked, "God should not allow him to become Chief Minister."

'Continue as CM'

Turning at Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who was present during the debate, Mr. Reddy said, "You may have taken up a padayatra against me earlier and I may have gone to jail. I am not pained by it. But that was my fate. But with folded hands, I beg you to continue as Chief Minister for the remaining term."

He hailed Mr. Siddaramaiah by saying that he had earlier directed officials concerned to go by facts.

He appealed to the Chief Minister to order a probe either by the CBI or by a sitting Karnataka High Court judge into the Ballari violence to bring out the truth.

He further urged the government to arrest those who employed private gunmen, who were allegedly involved in the shooting episode that claimed the life of a Congress worker in Ballari.

Hariprasad's remarks triggers pandemonium in Council

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Proceedings of the Legislative Council were disrupted for the third consecutive day on Thursday over the controversy surrounding the motion of thanks to the Governor's address, with the Opposition continuing its protest in the well of the House. A remark made by Congress member B.K. Hariprasad during the heated exchange of words triggered sharp confrontations, prompting the BJP and the JD(S) to demand his suspension.

Congress member B.K. Hariprasad speaking in the Legislative Council in Bengaluru on Thursday . SUDHAKARA JAIN

The disorder began with the Opposition persisting with its protest, demanding that Leader of the House N.S. Boseraju express regret for his criticism of the Governor's address, even as the government moved the motion of thanks. As soon as the House assembled, BJP members continued their dharna, prompting Chairman Basavaraj Horatti to appeal for the withdrawal of the protest.

Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanswamy said the Floor Leader's criticism of the Governor's address, reflected a contradictory stand and sent a wrong message. He said the protest would be withdrawn if Mr. Boseraju expressed regret.

Responding, Mr. Boseraju said the government had welcomed the motion of thanks to the Governor's address. Not satisfied with the reply, the Opposition continued the protest. Mr. Horatti intervened, stating that once the government had clarified its stand, the matter should be considered settled. This was contested by Mr. Narayanswamy, who questioned the Chairman's interpretation.

Amid the heated exchanges, Mr. Hariprasad said there was no need to take lessons on the Constitution from the BJP, alleging that the party leader had torn up the rule book governing the House. BJP member D.S. Arun alleged that Mr. Hariprasad had shown disrespect to the Governor. In a sharp response, Mr. Hariprasad made a remark that further escalated tensions.

Taking strong exception, Opposition members demanded Mr. Hariprasad's suspension, alleging improper conduct towards the Governor and the use of objectionable words in the House. As the situation went out of control, the House was adjourned for some time.

BJP's complaint

During the adjournment, the Opposition submitted a complaint to Mr. Horatti, seeking Mr. Hariprasad's suspension for allegedly using unconstitutional expressions in the House, including references to women and the RSS.

When proceedings resumed, Mr. Hariprasad said he had not made any remarks intended to disrespect the Governor. He acknowledged that he had spoken about RSS and women in anger and expressed regret, but said he did not accept the other allegations.

U.T. Khader

Session extended till February 4

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ongoing Legislature session has now been extended till February 4. A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting of Business Advisory Committee (BAC) on Thursday.

Earlier, the session that began on January 22 with the address of Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot was supposed to conclude on January 31.

However, the Business Advisory Committee has decided not to hold the session on Saturday.

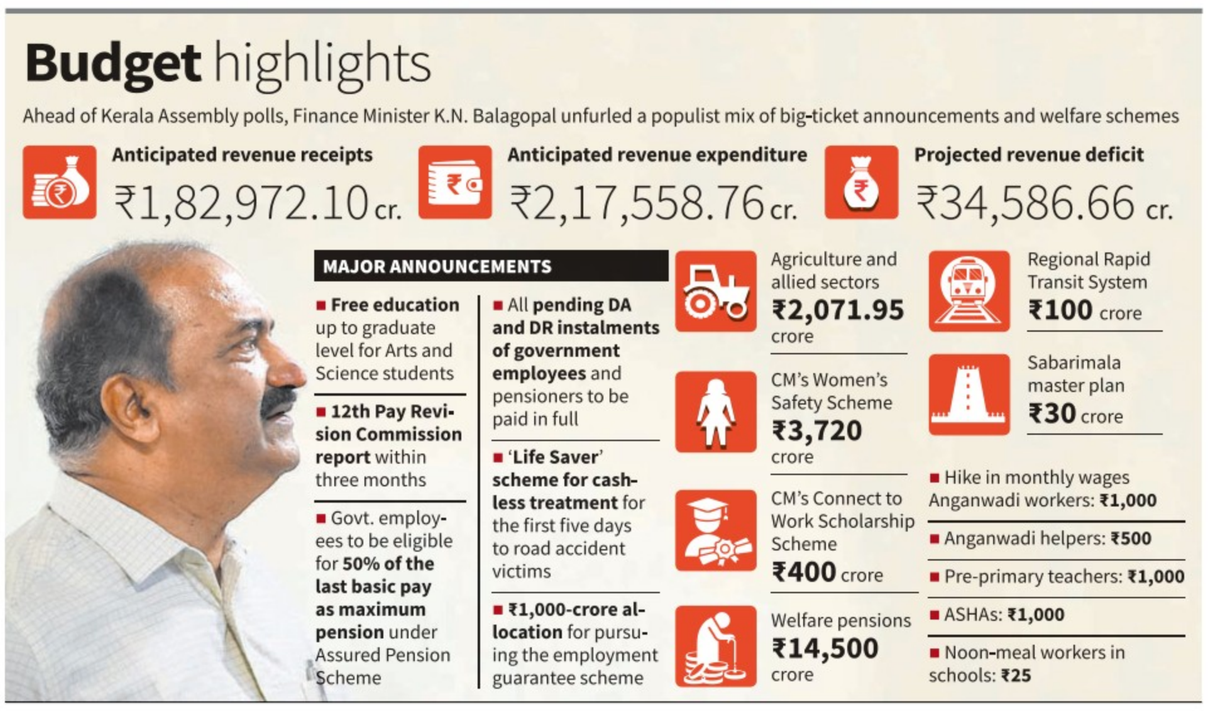
Announcing the decision of the BAC in the Assembly, Speaker U.T. Khader said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah would reply to the debate on motion of thanks to the Governor's address on February 2, while there will be a debate on resolutions to be moved by the government on February 3 and 4.

The government will reply to the debate on resolutions on February 4.

Populist thrust marks LDF govt.'s last Budget before Kerala Assembly polls

Major highlights include proposal to make undergraduate education in Arts and Science colleges free, wage hike for scheme workers, ₹1,000 crore for employee guarantee scheme, 12th Pay Revision Commission and Assured Pension Scheme

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



Presenting the final Budget of election-bound Kerala's incumbent CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government on Thursday, Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal unfurled a populist mix of big-ticket announcements and welfare sops, notably a proposal to make undergraduate education in Arts and Science colleges free, the 12th Pay Revision Commission and the Assured Pension Scheme with an April 1 launch date for government employees.

Mr. Balagopal's Budget speech, featured a bevy of insurance schemes, wage hikes for scheme workers, and proposals for developing high-end development corridors for rare earth and defence-related industries.

For government employees and pensioners, Thursday's Budget speech is intended to bring cheer. Under the Assured Pension Scheme, employees will be eligible for 50% of the last basic pay as maximum pension. There will also be an option for shifting from the existing National Pension System (NPS) to the assured pension.

The Pay Revision Commission will be asked to submit its report in three months' time, the Finance Minister said. The remaining instalments of dearness allowance/dearness relief (DA/DR) will be paid in full.

Insurance schemes

A clutch of insurance schemes featured prominently in the Budget. The list includes an accident/life coverage for school students and autorickshaw and taxi workers, as well as a new health insurance initiative for families outside the ambit of the Karunya Arogya Suraksha Scheme.

The Budget also assured a 'Life Saver Scheme' ensuring cashless treatment for road accident victims for the first five days.

The monthly wages of ASHAs, pre-primary teachers, Anganwadi workers and Saksharatha Preraks have been enhanced by ₹1,000 each, and that of anganwadi helpers workers by ₹500. The daily wage of noon-meal workers in schools has been increased by ₹25.

On making undergraduate education free, Mr. Balagopal later said that it will be applicable to government and aided colleges.

₹1,000-crore allocation

Later, speaking to the media, Mr. Balagopal picked as the "highlight" of his speech a ₹1,000-crore allocation for pursuing the employment guarantee scheme, noting that the Centre's decision to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme entails a "heavy blow" to the State.

With respect to infrastructure development, the Budget announced a new 'Rare Earth Corridor' linking the Vizhinjam port to Chavara and Kochi. An amount of ₹100 crore has been earmarked for establishing a Rare Earth Critical Minerals Mission. The second is a Defence Technology Innovation Hub interlinking defence and space institutions in the State.

Other major allocations on the infrastructure front include ₹100 crore for the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) - a north-south rail corridor which received clearance on Wednesday - ₹3,720 crore for the Sthree Suraksha Pension Project ₹400 crore for the Connect to Work scheme which the LDF government had announced in October 2025. The Budget also earmarked ₹14,500 crore for the payment of social security pensions during 2026-27.

Notably, the Budget speech lacked proposals for additional resource mobilisation. However, it has been decided to allow municipalities and Corporations to issue 'municipal bonds' for "implementing major projects which are profitable as well as beneficial to the public," Mr. Balagopal said.

'On the same page,' says Tharoor after meeting Kharge, Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After weeks of a widening rift with his party, Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said "all is well" after a meeting with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Thursday.

The meeting, which took place in Mr. Kharge's office in the Parliament House complex and lasted about an hour and forty-five minutes, signalled a truce between the party and its Thiruvananthapuram MP.

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal is said to have worked behind the scenes for the important meeting as the party seeks to project a united front ahead of the crucial Kerala Assembly election.

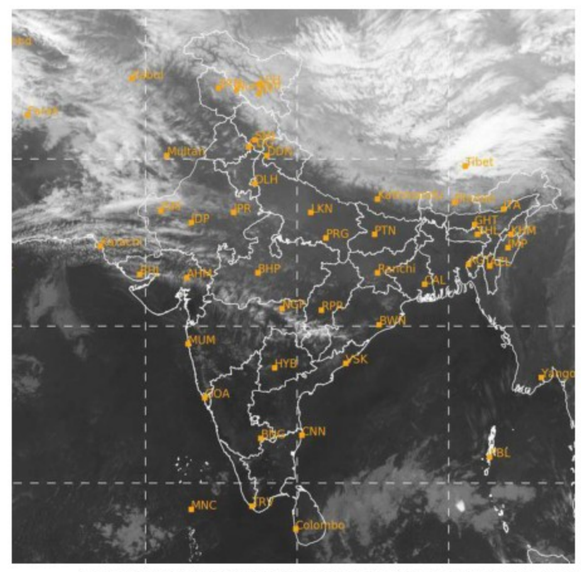
"We had a very good, constructive, positive discussion. All is good and we are moving together on the same page. What more can I say," Mr. Tharoor told presspersons.

Asked if he was upset with the party for not being considered as its Chief Ministerial face ahead of the Kerala polls, Mr. Tharoor said that was never the issue.

"At the moment I am already an MP, I have the trust of my voters from Thiruvananthapuram. I have their interest to look after in Parliament, that is my job. I am not looking for a new job," he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi. Dense/very dense fog likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim, Sub Himalayan West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.0	12.7	Kozhikode	—	32.8	25.2
Ahmedabad	—	26.2	12.8	Kurnool	—	33.0	19.3
Aizawl	—	28.8	13.6	Lucknow	0.2	21.6	11.2
Allahabad	—	22.4	13.5	Madurai	—	33.0	20.2
Bengaluru	—	28.2	16.2	Mangaluru	—	33.3	22.6
Bhopal	—	20.4	11.0	Mumbai	—	33.3	18.1
Bhubaneswar	—	31.2	16.8	Mysuru	—	30.2	18.0
Chandigarh	—	21.0	6.6	New Delhi	—	17.9	11.0
Chennai	—	29.0	22.2	Patna	—	24.0	14.4
Coimbatore	—	31.2	19.4	Port Blair	—	30.5	25.6
Dehradun	—	23.8	9.0	Puducherry	—	28.6	20.5
Gangtok	—	17.2	7.6	Pune	—	32.6	17.2
Goa	—	35.0	20.4	Raipur	—	30.0	18.9
Guwahati	—	28.1	14.4	Ranchi	—	24.6	15.0
Hubballi	—	33.0	17.0	Shillong	—	18.4	7.3
Hyderabad	—	30.6	18.0	Shimla	—	18.6	4.2
Imphal	—	25.0	13.7	Srinagar	—	8.8	-0.6
Jaipur	—	21.5	8.5	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.4	22.8
Kochi	—	30.8	25.2	Tiruchi	—	30.1	20.4
Kohima	—	17.8	7.6	Vijayawada	—	30.1	19.0
Kolkata	—	27.5	15.2	Visakhapatnam	—	29.8	19.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.88	..90	50	... 122	...162	
Bengaluru	...6	..24	19	... 202	...152	
Chennai	...7	5	49	... 184	...126	
Delhi	...7	..74	91	... 309	...261	
Hyderabad	...7	..29	21	... 134	...124	
Kolkata	...7	127	52	... 263	...182	
Lucknow	.10	..33	63	... 157	...201	
Mumbai	.34	..90	40	 99	...116	
Pune	..—	..36	33	... 213	...176	
Visakhapatnam	...3	..69	21	... 230	...198	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Angul, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 310 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir recorded a healthy AQI score of 30

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

GOVT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF FINANCE -
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- II /BENGALURU
Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001

PROCLAMATION OF SALE-CUM E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE
(Issued under Rule 52(2) of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act Act. 1961 read with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act. 1993 (as amended from time to time)
RC No. 204/2023 in O.A. No. 1083/2018

Between: Union Bank of India, (Channapatna Branch) .....Certificate Holder Bank
V/s
Shri. Y. C. Revanna & Another .....Certified Debtors
To,
1. Sri. Y.C.Revanna
S/o Late Channa Heggade, Yaliyur Village, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District -562160,
2. Smt. Sushelamma
W/o Late Chikka Puttaiah, Akkuru Village, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District-562160
.... Certified Debtors

Whereas a **Recovery Certificate No. 204/2023** was issued by the **Hon'ble Presiding Officer, Debts Recovery Tribunal-2, Bengaluru** under section 19 (22) of the Recovery of Due and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 (Amendment from time to time) in **O.A.No.1083/2018** between **Union Bank of India (Channapatna Branch) Vs Shri. Y.C.Revanna & Another**, which was forwarded to the undersigned authority for execution. **2.** Whereas the undersigned authority initiated execution proceedings in **RC No. 204/2023** for Recovery of **Rs.16,58,861.00 (Rupees Sixteen Lakhs Fifty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-One Only)** along with costs, expenses and interest as stated in the Recovery Certificate from the CDs. From the date of filing of O.A, till the date of final realization. **3.** Whereas **dues payable by CDs as on 30.05.2025 is Rs.30,65,765/- (Rupees Thirty Lakhs Sixty-Five Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty-Five Only)** excluding costs and interest, and expenses incurred to be incurred in the recovery proceeding with further interest payable as per RC till realization. **4.** Whereas the undersigned authority ordered sale of schedule attached property of certificate debtor/s mentioned hereunder in satisfaction of Recovery Certificate by adopting "Online e-auction sale" through the website of the service provider. **5.** The schedule attached property will be sold on **"As is Where is"** and **"As is What is"** and **"No Complaint basis"** by 'Online e-Auction' through the Service Provider M/s Foreclosure India, e-mail Id: info@bankauctions.in & karnataka@bankauctions.in. The details of date of auction, last date for submission of Bid forms, Reserve Price, Earnest Money Deposit, Bid Increase Amount and time of auction are mentioned here under against schedule property:-

AUCTION SCHEDULE

Date and Time of Auction: 11.03.2026 between 11.00 AM and 12.30 PM
Last Date and Time for online Bids / Tender submission: 09.03.2026 by 04.00 PM
Last Date and Time for Hard Copy of Auction tender submission 10.03.2026 by 4.00 PM
Reserve Price: Rs. 60,00,000/- (Rupees Sixty Lakhs Only)
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): Rs. 6,00,000/- (Rupees Six Lakhs only)
Bid Increment Amount: Rs.1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only)

SCHEDULE PROPERTY: - (Property Standing in the Name of CD1 Sri Y C Revanna) All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural Land in Sy.No.149/10, situated at Yaliyur Village, Virupakshipura Hobli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District, **measuring 04 Acre** (Standing in the name of the defendant). **Bounded on - East by:** Land of Puttaraju, **West by:** Govt Katte, **North by:** Land of Chikkabeeraiah, **South by:** Land of Doddaiah.
Intending participants/bidders are advised to contact service provider M/s Foreclosure India, e-mail Id: info@bankauctions.in and website: www.bankauctions.in, Contact person: Mr. Varun – 8142000809, Mr. Jayaprakash Reddy – 8142000066, for detailed terms and conditions of sale, for online registration, user ID, Password, help, to know the procedure, online training about e-auction etc for submitting their bid forms and for taking part in e-auction sale proceedings.
For further details, Contact: Ms. Sharon C Nelson, Senior Manager, Channapatna Branch – 9744880055 (email Id:ubin0910821@unionbankofindia.bank.in and ubin0900117@unionbankofindia.bank.in)
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 23rd December 2025.

Date : 23-12-2025 **RECOVERY OFFICER - II**
Place : Bengaluru **DRT – 2, BENGALURU**

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that our Client **Smt. LEELAVATHI K** W/o Girish Kumar E V intends to purchase Schedule property from vendor **Smt. M BHAGYA** W/o Ramu R/at No.45, 2nd Main, 2nd Cross, Veerabramhendra Mutt, Annapoorneshwari Nagar, Viswaneedam, Bangalore-560 091.
If any person has any claims right, title, interest, pending litigation or demand of any nature in or upon the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same shall be brought to the notice of the undersigned with supporting documents within **Seven (7)** days from the date of this notice. If such claims are not made within the stipulated time period, then, such claim shall be considered to have been waived and/or given up and our client shall be entitled to complete the transactions contemplated in respect of the Schedule Property. Objections and/or claims received after the expiry of the stipulated time period shall neither be entertained nor be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.45, Property No.70/1, Old Khatha No.70/1, Property No.34/45/70/1, EPID No. 9186633898, situated at Srigandhakaval Village, Yeshawanthapura Hobli, Rajagopalanagar, New Ward No.70, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, in all measuring to an extent of 1200 Sq.feet, situated at No.45, 2nd Main Road, 2nd Cross Road, Veerabramhendra Mutt, Annapoorneshwari Nagar, Viswaneedam, Bangalore-560091 and bounded on the **East by :** Road, **West by:** Property No.72, **North by :** Property No.46, **South by :** Property No.44.

Vinay Kumar V R, Advocate
No.258, 3rd Floor, 3rd Main, Chamarajpete, Bangalore-560018.
Ph: 96200 04423, 78992 11123
Place: Bangalore **Date: 30-01-2026**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Notice is issued on behalf of My client **Mr.Balaraju S/o. Sri.Manikyam** to bring the notice of the general public that, he is intends to purchase the schedule property from **Sri.Sandeep Govindaiah S/o Sri.Santhosh Govindaiah.**
If any, person / firm / institution / company having any claim or right in respect of the Schedule Property by way of inheritance, sale, agreement, mortgage, lease, lien, license, gift, possession, legal heirs, partners or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate in writing to the undersigned within **Seven (7) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/their share or claim, with all supporting documents failing which reference to such claim and the claims, if any, of such person shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of immovable residential property bearing **Site No.5,** Property No. 4366544994, Assessment No.961/843, Old Panchayat E-Khatha No. 150200202100201190, Now coming under the Jurisdiction of Hunasamaranahalli TMC Limits, now Purasabha Khatha No.961/843/5, Decision No.516/961/843, converted from Agricultural to Non–Agricultural Industrial Purpose, Old Sy.No.23/3, New Sy.no.103, total measuring 1-10 (1 Acre 10 Guntas), issued by Deputy Commissioner office, Bengaluru vide No.Dis.ALN.SR(N)73/1990-91, dated. 08.04.1991, later converted for Residential purpose, vide conversion order dated 17.06.1995, No. B.DIS.ALN.SR(N) 73/1990-91, issued by Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore situated at: Kadiganahalli Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded as **East by : Site No.8, West by : Road, North by : Site No.6, South by : Site No.4.**

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

Government of Telangana
Department of Mines and Geology
Email: dmg-eauction-mines@telangana.gov.in

Ref: 3497138/MI/MMB/Phase-V/2026 **Date: January 30, 2026**

Notice Inviting Tender
'Invitation of bids for grant of Quarry Lease for Minor Mineral blocks'

The Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Telangana, invites bids for the grant of quarry leases for 21minor mineral blocks (5 blocks with embedded clearances and 16 blocks without embedded clearances) through electronic auction under Rule 12 of the Telangana Minor Mineral Concession Rules, 1966, as notified pursuant to Section 15 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The minerals proposed for grant include **Colour Granite, Black Granite, Stone & Metal, Building Stone, Rough Stone, and Road Metal**.
Interested bidders may obtain the Tender Document containing eligibility criteria, auction schedule, reserve price, bidding parameters, terms and conditions, and other details from the e-auction portal of MSTC Limited at: (https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mmb/tgmmb/index.jsp).
Mineral Block Summaries and the model tender document are available free of cost in the portal. Block-specific Tender Documents are available for purchase from the portal. Interested bidders may register themselves on the website to obtain login credentials required for submission of bids and participation in the e-auction process.
The date for commencement of Sale of Tender Document is **Monday, 2 February, 2026**. The last date for purchase of the Tender Document is **Tuesday, 17 February, 2026, on or before 17:00 hours (IST)** and the last date for submission of bids **(both on-line and physical)** is **Tuesday, 24 February, 2026, on or before 17:00 hours (IST)**.

R.O. No. : 1111-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt: 29.01.2026
Sd/-
Director of Mines & Geology(FAC)

BEFORE THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I
1st Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad-500001.

O.A. No. 578 of 2025

Between :
State Bank of India, SARB, Koti, Hyderabad, Rep. by its Chief Manager. **... Applicant**
AND
M/s. Winner Eleven Foods Private Limited and others **... Defendants**

SUMMONS BY WAY OF PUBLICATION

To,
1. Mrs. Nikitha Umesha, W/o. Mr. Akash Stanley,
Age: 30 years, Occ: Business,
R/o. # 7. Anugraha Nilaya, 9th Main. Basappa Layout, Suddagunte Palya, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bengaluru-560093.
...Defendant No. 3
2. Mr. Akash Stanley, S/o. Mr. Stanley Jesudasan.
Aged: 33 years. Occ: Business, R/o. # 72. Layout Doddanjundi, Bangalore North, Marataballi Colony, Bengalore-580037.
...Defendant No. 4

Please lake the summons in the above O.A. No. 578 of 2025 filed by the Applicant Bank lor recover) of money of **Rs. 3,57,09,040.00 Ps** against you. The Hon'ble Tribunal ordered summons to you by way of publieation in **"The Hindu" Newspaper in Bengalore edition and posted the matter to 02-03-2026.**
In accordance with sub-Section (4) of Section 19 of the Act you the defendants are directed as under;
i) To show cause within 30 days of the service of the summons as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
ii) To disclose the particulars of properties or assets other than properties and assets specified by the applicant under serial number 3A of the Original application;
iii) You are restrained from dealing with or disposing of secured assets or such other assets and properties disclosed under serial 3A of original application, pending hearing and disposal of the application for attachment of properties;
iv) You shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise, except in the ordinary course of your business any of the assets over which security interest is created and/or other assets and properties specified or disclosed under serial number 3A of the original application without the prior approval of Tribunal;
v) You shall be liable to account for the sale proceeds realized by sale of secured assets or other assets and properties in the ordinary course of business and deposit such sale proceeds in the account maintained with the Bank or Financial Institutions holding security interest over such assets.
You are hereby required to show cause on **02.03.2026 at 10.30 a.m**. at Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, 1st Floor, Triveni Complex, Abids, Hyderabad -500001 in person or by an Advocate duly instructed as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default, the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.

(By the order of the Court)
Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal-1, Hyderabad.

अआमासं RDSO रेल अग्रदूत Transforming Railways
Government of India - Ministry of Railways
Research Designs and Standards Organisation

Be an active partner in Nation-Building

Help your Country Upgrade and Evolve into a Technological and Logistic Powerhouse

Join the Critical Supply Chain of the Lifeline to the Nation

For development and supply of items, visit RDSO website and see:
- *Expressions of Interest*
- *List of RDSO items with less than 3 vendors*

www.rdso.indianrailways.gov.in

Surendra Kumar Panda, OAS(SS)
Chief General Manager (P&A)
idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES

NO: IDCO/HO-P&A-A10404/01/2025/V-6/2490 **Date: 29.01.2026**

CORRIGENDUM No-1 TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTICE

In the first paragraph of the Notice Inviting Request for Proposal (RFP) No. **IDCO/HO-P&A-A10404/01/2025/V-6/261,** dated **03.01.2026** and published on **07.01.2026** in newspapers, the same may be read as:Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) invites technical and financial proposals from reputed Manpower/Human Resources agencies having a registered office/branch office located within the jurisdictional area of Bhubaneswar, Odisha, for deployment of experienced Accounts personnel at the Divisional/Head Office level of Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO). Further, the earlier published date line is hereby modified as follows.

Sl No	Particulars	Earlier Dateline	Modified Dateline
1.	**Last date of receipt of queries**	**16.01.2026, 4 P.M.**	**03.02.2026, 4 P.M.**
2.	**Last date of receipt of technical and financial bid through e-procurement portal of Government of Odisha**	**30.01.2026, 5 P.M.**	**07.02.2026, 5 P.M.**
3.	**Date of opening of online technical bids**	**31.01.2026, 12.00 PM**	**09.02.2026, 12 P.M.**

All other terms and conditions of the above RFP shall remain unchanged.
CAD-: **Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&A)**

Executive Engineer Office, P. W.
Division No. 1, Thane Parking Plaza Building 8th Floor, Service Road, Off Eastern Express Highway, Near Jupiter Hospital, Thane - 400601.
Email-thane1.ee@ mahapwd.gov.in
www.mahapwd.com
No./TD/Tender/488
Ph: 25369293
Date. 28/01/2026

E-Tender Corrigendum No.1 (Time Table)

WORK NAME:- Construction of 900 Bedded District Civil, and Super specialty Hospital, Building Nursing Training Centre and Hostel Building at Civil Hospital Complex, Thane, Tal. Dist. Thane (Providing, Supplying and Fixing Furniture)

Estimated Cost:- 51,10,74,361.00

Ref:- E-Tender Notice No. 39 Year 2025-26 letter Dated No. This Office Letter No. Tender/316 Date: 16/01/2026.

Sr.No	Tender	Before Publish Date	Now Publish Date
1	Selling Date	20.01.2026 to 04.02.2026	20.01.2026 to 12.02.2026
2	Pre-bid Mitting	27.01.2026	05.01.2026
3	Tender Opening Date	05.02.2026	13.02.2026

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
P.W. Division No.1, Thane

DGIPR/2025-2026/5422

Devolution, not debt

Cesses and surcharges levied by Centre must be in divisible pool

While the Union Budget is keenly tracked by States to assess their share in overall Central tax devolution, it is becoming increasingly clear that this revenue stream no longer plays the stabilising role it once did in State finances. The evidence lies in the rapid expansion of State Development Loans (SDLs), which have emerged as a key financing instrument for States' day-to-day spending needs. In 2024-25 (Revised Estimates), SDLs amounted to about 35% of Tamil Nadu's total revenue receipts and nearly 26% of Maharashtra's – levels that would have been considered fiscally exceptional a decade ago. This shift gathered pace after 2020-21, when the COVID-19 pandemic delivered a severe economic shock and Central devolution proved inadequate. This dependence on borrowing has not reversed since. Instead, States are increasingly relying on SDLs; borrowings by profit-making State PSUs and Special Purpose Vehicles are done to finance even routine revenue expenditure. This has happened despite the 15th Finance Commission fixing States' share at 41% of the divisible pool, as the effective flow of resources has been eroded by the growing use of cesses and surcharges, which lie outside the divisible pool. The problem is acute for industrialised States with a large indirect tax base. Since the introduction of GST in 2017, a substantial share of these revenues is collected by the Centre and redistributed through a formula that often weakens the fiscal link between tax effort and reward. Consequently, welfare commitments – pensions for the elderly and retired employees and mass health insurance schemes for the poor – are increasingly being funded through domestic borrowing. This limits the availability of funds for public capital expenditure and private investment, which is essential to sustain growth.

A comparison of borrowing patterns over the past five years across Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and West Bengal underlines this trend. West Bengal, which is structurally dependent on Central devolution – averaging about 47.7% of its revenue receipts over the last five years – continued to borrow heavily from the domestic market. SDLs constituted roughly 35% of the State's revenues on average during this period, even as nominal tax devolution rose. This points to a steady erosion of States' fiscal autonomy, with potentially serious macroeconomic consequences as debt-to-GSDP ratios rise while assured revenue streams weaken. If debt, rather than devolution, becomes the primary shock absorber in India's federal system, fiscal sustainability itself comes under strain. India needs higher effective devolution, and a reworking of horizontal devolution criteria to give greater weight to tax effort and efficiency. Cesses and surcharges must be brought into the divisible pool.

Quick pill

Removal of some pharma regulations should not come at the cost of quality

The government's move to scrap the traditional, mandatory test licences required to manufacture small quantities of drugs for research is an effort to remove the sometimes-crippling regulatory hurdles in the pharmaceutical sector. This decision aligns with the national goal of facilitating ease of doing business. The central element of these amendments to the New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019, is replacing the mandatory licence requirement for non-commercial manufacture of drugs with a prior-intimation mechanism. Developers can now manufacture small quantities of drugs for research, testing, and analysis after intimating the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation via its SUGAM Portal, online. Once a 'notice of intent' is acknowledged online, a company is free to go ahead with drug synthesis, strictly for research. In a post-COVID world, where speed of delivery for end use has gained virtue, the government anticipates that removal of this licencing factor will fast-track the timeline of drug development by at least three months. Specific low-risk bioavailability and bioequivalence studies can also commence after an online intimation on the portal. In addition, even for categories in which a licence is still required, such as for high-risk psychotropic or narcotic drugs, the statutory processing time will be reduced from 90 days to 45. All manufacturers are required to meticulously document and file processes as per rules.

The abolishment of a 'licence raj' is always good news. The dismantling of hurdles in pharma research and development bodes well for a country that is aspiring to position itself as the pharmacy of the world. The paperless, prior intimation mechanism will no doubt reduce the time spent twiddling thumbs, waiting for a physical copy of the licence. And time saved is, naturally, money and lives saved. Reducing the time a drug takes from the lab to the bedside for practical use can save countless lives and reduce morbidity in many more. However, the government would do well to circumvent the danger of a drop in quality control by initiating a mechanism, after intimation, to ensure that all good manufacturing practices are strictly adhered to. No drug, however speedily produced, is worth the blister it is packaged in if it comes with quality lapses. Poor pharmaceutical oversight, as recent cough syrup-related deaths showed, can be fatal.

India-Arab League: bridging cultures, creating opportunities

Col. Rajeev Agarwal (Retired)

Senior Research Consultant, Chintan Research Foundation

Ministers and delegates of the 22-member Arab League are gathering in Delhi for the 2nd India-Arab Foreign Ministers' Meeting on January 30-31, 2026. This is a major diplomatic outreach by India at a time when there are multiple conflicts brewing on the horizon in the region and the world is grappling with the rapidly changing global order, set in motion largely due to U.S. President Donald Trump's total disregard for the sovereignty of nations and the rules-based international order.

As the ministers gather in Delhi, war clouds are still hovering over Iran and the massive military build-up by the U.S. continues. In Syria, despite a ceasefire, uncertainty continues and long-term peace is still some distance away. Gaza finally looks towards transitioning to peace even as details of phase two of the ceasefire are still in the works. The recovery of the body of the last Israeli hostage from Gaza on January 26 is a major victory for Israel and may well motivate it to move towards relaxing the restrictions in Gaza.

However, the most surprising development is the emergence of fault lines among two close allies – Saudi Arabia and the UAE – mostly over conflicting interests in Yemen but also over power and influence in the region. We need to watch out for the possibility of rival military alliances. India, too, is closely monitoring the situation, while formulating its own strategy for the region.

India and the Arab League

The Arab League, officially known as the League of Arab States (LAS), was formed in Cairo on March 22, 1945, initially with seven members. Today, it has 22 member states from North Africa and West Asia. Although India's relations with countries in the Arab League go back centuries, the engagement with the LAS was formalised in March 2002 when a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed, institutionalising the process of dialogue. The MoU is aimed to "promote and develop the traditional relationship of friendship and cooperation between India and the Arab States" and provides for annual meetings between the External Affairs Minister of India and the Secretary General of the Arab League.

During the visit of Arab League Secretary General, Amr Moussa, to India in December 2008, the Arab-India Cooperation Forum (AICF) was established. And in December 2010, the Indian Ambassador to Egypt was designated as India's Permanent Representative to the Arab League. The first meeting of the AICF was held in January 2016 at Manama, Bahrain. In addition, there is the India-LAS Partnership and Investment Summit, a biennial flagship economic event. During the current visit of foreign ministers, a new initiative called the India and Arab Countries Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture is scheduled to be inaugurated.

> As India grows into a major power, the Arab League region forms a critical part of its global matrix. For the Arab League countries too, India is a strong and reliable partner

Key pillars of engagement

The India-LAS partnership goes beyond trade and investment. Over the past decade, strategic partnerships and security have emerged as crucial areas of engagement. Oman was the first country with which India signed a strategic partnership in 2008. With the signing of similar agreements with the UAE in 2015, Saudi Arabia in 2019, Egypt in 2023, and Qatar in 2025, the depth and scope of strategic convergence with the region has grown rapidly.

India has also strongly rallied for the region in various multilateral forums such as BRICS and SCO. Even among the strategic vision of countries, there are significant convergences, whether it is the Saudi Vision 2030, the UAE Centennial 2071, the Kuwait Vision 2035, the Oman Vision 2040, or India's Viksit Bharat in 2047. In fact, in the Saudi Vision 2030, India is one of the eight strategic partners.

Trade and investments continue to be the bedrock of the relationship and have stood the test of time, including the COVID-19 pandemic. Most of India's external trade passes through the Suez Canal, the Red Sea, and the Gulf of Aden. Bilateral trade between India and the Arab League currently stands at over $240 billion. India has signed the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with the UAE and Oman. As a result, bilateral trade with the UAE has already crossed $115 billion and has now been reset at $200 billion by 2030. Major investment commitments in India have been made by the UAE ($75 billion), Saudi Arabia ($100 billion) and Qatar ($10 billion), mostly in the fast-growing infrastructure sector. The cumulative FDI in India from the region has crossed $2.5 billion. As trade ties grow, connectivity becomes an impsortant factor to ensure speed, efficiency and collective prosperity. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, launched at the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi in September 2023, therefore, gains significance and is likely to be discussed at the meeting.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi pushing for development of digital public infrastructure for speed and transparency of transactions, Fintech is emerging as yet another area of mutual convergence. The RuPay card was launched in the UAE in August 2019. From July 2023, the Indian rupee is being accepted as legal currency at Dubai airports. Also, India and the UAE have operationalised the rupee-dirham settlement system. India's Unified Payments Interface is already accepted for financial transactions in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE and is likely to grow further in the LAS countries soon.

Energy is a critical pillar of the partnership. The region caters to about 60% of India's crude oil imports, 70% of natural gas, and more than 50% of fertilizers and related products. Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE are the top three exporters of crude oil. The UAE has also signed an agreement with India to store strategic oil reserves in the country, operationalised with an initial investment of $400 million. With Qatar, the $78 billion Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) deal signed in February 2024, with assured import of 7.5 million tonnes of LNG a year for another 20 years, adds a critical link to India's energy security. In addition, in July 2023, ADNOC (Abu Dhabi National Oil Company) and Indian Oil signed a LNG contract for 1.2 million metric tonnes per annum over a period of 14 years.

Living under the threat of conflicts and terror, security and defence are growing as important pillars in the partnership. Defence partnership agreements have been signed with multiple countries in the LAS including Oman, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Qatar and are growing. India's maritime security initiatives such as Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) aim to promote joint collaboration in the Indian Ocean Region, particularly against sea piracy and maritime security threats. India's agreement with Oman over the Duqm port is a strategic deal that offers a critical advantage to the Indian Navy in its operations in the region while also allowing it to keep a discreet watch on the activity of China's People's Liberation Army Navy. The threat of war in Iran and the future of the Gaza peace process are common areas of security concerns in the region and are likely to figure as a key agenda during the meetings.

Most of the LAS countries are in total sync in India's fight against cross-border terror and have condemned the Uri, Pathankot, Pulwama, and Pahalgam terror attacks in India. Joint production of defence equipment and export of key weapon platforms such as the Tejas fighter aircraft, BrahMos and Aakash missiles, and artillery guns are also emerging as important attractions for LAS countries. Cyber, space and drone are future areas of cooperation.

Looking ahead

As India grows into a major economic, political, and military power, the Arab League region forms a critical part of its global matrix. For LAS countries too, India is a strong and reliable partner. The countries of the two regions may be separated by the Arabian Sea but are joined by history, destiny, trust, and growing brotherhood. The meeting of the foreign ministers of LAS in Delhi offers the perfect opportunity to forge closer ties and seek new avenues of engagement.

Is India prepared for the end of globalisation?

Suvojit Chattopadhyay

Governance and public policy professional with over two decades of experience across South Asia and East Africa

Earlier this month, U.S. President Donald Trump remarked that India reduced Russian oil imports to make him happy, and issued a further warning that more tariffs could be imposed if India displeases him. This was an accurate representation of how Mr. Trump approaches bilateral negotiations. What is broken is not just global trade, but the political system that governs it. What is taking its place is a return to mercantilism – a view of trade as an instrument of state power, where surpluses are strength and deficits are weakness.

Globalisation is usually described as the expansion of free trade of goods and services. That is an incomplete description. Globalisation is a political system that defined how governments ran markets and societies, and how they engaged with each other and with networked global institutions that they had established. It came to be associated with liberalism, democracy, and global cooperation. That system is now over.

A new order

The world economy was global long before it was liberal. Early globalisation was built on force. Wealth accumulation in the industrialised north was on the backs of domestic resource exploitation and overseas resource extraction. Trade was lopsided, not free.

Towards the middle of the 20th century, as the rest of the world found its voice and war had ravaged the industrialised countries, it was time for a new order. Sovereignty spread faster than democracy. Global institutions were birthed to offer a normative framework to manage international affairs. Even when unilateral power was exercised, it was couched as a pursuit of democracy, regional stability, or humanitarian compassion. The legitimacy of the system depended on that restraint. That restraint has now been abandoned openly.

This global system, with a normative multilateral core, rested on several political assumptions - open markets, free movement of capital but not people, cross-border enforcement of contracts, negotiations over management of shared resources. For a while, these assumptions seemed to hold as many countries experienced economic growth and declines in poverty.

> Without stronger state capability, greater social cohesion, and a social contract committed to sharing growth more evenly, India risks remaining a country that lays claim to being a Vishwaguru without the institutional foundations and economic means to achieve it

Unintended consequences

There were, however, two unintended consequences. First, returns to capital far outstripped increases in wages. As the integration of global markets and supply chains deepened, economic pressures intensified. Manufacturing declined in some regions and surged in others. Migration from poor to rich countries increased. It was a matter of time before populist politics would take shape to respond to these imbalances.

Second, the geopolitical foundations of the post-colonial era were shaken by the rise of China. China provided the starkest example of a country that broke through into the global economy and accumulated wealth and power without complying with the multilateral order. China benefited enormously from access to global markets, supply chains, and technology, but retained firm state control over capital, labour and information. China's trade surplus reflects the relentless pursuit of a model of excess capacity and external demand, which has stunted the industrial ambitions of poorer countries, including India. Over time, China accumulated enough power to emerge as an alternative model for both economic growth and consolidation of domestic political power.

Together, these developments changed how major economies came to view globalisation. Global cooperation came to be viewed as an opportunity cost, or at best as a distraction, as populist politics turned societies inward-looking. Their response is essentially an assertion of sovereignty at the expense of liberal values, such as the politicisation of migration and the promotion of industrial policy to buy self-sufficiency. This is why globalisation, as it was practised, is now dead.

The crutch of global cooperation has already been taken away from the developing world. International aid is now conditional on the national interests of donor countries. With multilateral institutions failing, the ability of developing countries to negotiate jointly on matters such as climate change or illicit financial flows is weakening rapidly. Domestically, restless youth now demand much more of their governments. Political elites need to recognise this moment and act decisively, even if they initially do so to further their self-interest.

India's role

What is India's role going to be in this emerging global order? India is simultaneously too large to ignore and too poor to matter. Over the last 15 years, we have squandered the opportunity to convert our demographic advantage into productive capacity. The social pyramid has become more sharply stratified, with an overwhelmingly poor and powerless base supporting a narrow apex.

India can still become a serious player in a few selected domains – digital public infrastructure being the most prominent, but also with potential in renewable energy, the services sector, and democratic decentralisation. But it is hard to see how those possibilities can be realised under the current political economy. Even the limited economic growth we have seen has not been accompanied by a credible commitment to expanding the base through sustained public investment in health and education. In a mercantilist world order, low state capability will only result in long-term irrelevance.

Without stronger state capability, greater social cohesion, and a social contract committed to sharing growth more evenly, India risks remaining a country that lays claim to being a Vishwaguru without the institutional foundations and economic means to achieve it. Rhetoric alone will not be enough.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fixing the problem

It is time to break this pattern of aircraft accidents ("Aircraft crashed during second landing bid in poor visibility", Jan. 29). First, a dedicated air wing should be developed for politicians, similar to the IAF's VVIP fleet, equipped with modern helicopters, advanced GPS-radar systems, and highly trained pilots. Second, strict national standards should be set for chartered aircraft and helicopters used during the election season, and real-time digital tracking should be made mandatory. Third, virtual rallies, digital communications, and tech-based campaigning should be encouraged. Fourth, a zero-tolerance policy should be adopted for pilot training, pre-flight technical inspections, and aircraft maintenance, and strict penalties should be imposed on companies violating these rules.

Satyawan Saurabh
Bhiwani

Mamata Banerjee's suggestion of a conspiracy and her call for a Supreme Court-monitored probe were uncalled for ("Mamata seeks SC-monitored probe into Ajit Pawar's death," Jan. 29). Sharad Pawar rightly asked people not to politicise the accident. This was not the time for her to say that no agency can be trusted and direct her anger at the government.

B. Sundar Raman
Coimbatore

Promoting tourism

The problems stated in the article, "India, the beautiful — but first, India the functional," (Jan. 29) relate to infrastructure, harassment, scams, and abuse and reflect the flaws in India's education system. People are not taught basic etiquette or empathy in India. If we intend to solve these problems, we must do it for the sake of our citizens first; tourists will naturally follow.

Adan Shanaas
Patna

To read more letters online, scan the QR code.

Will removing curbs on Chinese FDI help India?

Shyam Saran

is a former Foreign Secretary to the Government of India and currently President of the India International Centre

Santosh Pai

is a partner at Dentons Link Legal and an honorary fellow at the Institute of Chinese Studies

PARLEY

India's Ministry of Finance is set to lift curbs on Chinese firms bidding for government contracts, which were introduced in 2020, following a deadly clash between the two countries' troops in the Galwan Valley. Now that India is showing a change of heart, the Ministry's actions beg the question: Will removing curbs on Chinese FDI help India? Shyam Saran and Santosh Pai discuss this in a conversation moderated by **Nitika Francis**. Edited excerpts:

How will foreign direct investment from China help the Indian economy?

Shyam Saran: First of all, we have to spell out our own objectives with regard to our economic and industrial development. Which areas, from a security perspective, are sensitive and which are not. Unless we create a roadmap outlining our priorities and where Chinese FDI fits into that scale, it is very difficult to say whether or not we should accept it.

Santosh Pai: Chinese investments can play a role in both India's economic and security objectives. On the economic front, we can look at expanding the contribution of the manufacturing sector to the Indian economy, attracting a greater share of supply chains, and boosting exports. On the security front, especially vis-à-vis China, one pressing need is to reduce our dependence on imports from them, as we have a huge trade deficit. We can also look at how to develop leverage against China, given our political ties.

How do we approach China's investments in sensitive sectors?

SS: It is for the national security establishment within the Indian government to determine which sectors are considered very sensitive. For example, it was decided that we should be careful not to invite Chinese investment or participation in projects on our coast, which may be near our naval bases. The digital economy of India is considered a sensitive sector, and if it is dominated by Chinese investment and companies, our security may be compromised due to potential invisible data flows. There could also be kill switches that can be shut off during a period of emergency. Consumer items may not pose the same kind of concerns. Our view in the Ministry of External Affairs, when I was serving there, was that we should not make some of these limitations China-specific. If there is an area of security concern, the basic effort should be to ensure it is not open to foreign investment. Such a policy is better than being country-specific.

GETTY IMAGES

SP: Allowing investments in non-sensitive sectors can contribute heavily to reducing the trade deficit. So I would say we need to look at it from different perspectives, but the red lines must always be clear from a national security perspective before evaluating any other priority. So by placing national security at the centre, I think it is possible to evolve these priorities and develop the current restrictions.

In its Economic Survey for 2023-24, the Ministry of Finance suggested that increased FDI inflows from China could help increase India's participation in global supply chains and push exports. How viable do you think this strategy is?

SS: First, we should recognise that it is not such a simple matter to say we want to be part of this supply chain. Supply chains work efficiently in a low-tariff regime. Unless you make your market open to very easy imports of components, these items cross borders several times before a final product is made. Second, we have to determine the components of that supply chain in which we have competitiveness. I think we also have to study the experience of some Chinese FDI, already present in India, which is actually quite successful, such as Xiaomi and Oppo. We should also see if there are any other areas where Chinese FDI could be invited. Off the cuff, Chinese EV manufacturers may have a lot of interest in India. So why not consider that favourably?

SP: While we must take increased tariffs into account, India also has a role to play in non-tariff barriers. We have quality control orders that have been tweaked over the years to either make it easy or difficult to import some

> We may have thought that Apple's investment would have a major demonstration effect on other companies that are de-risking from China for geopolitical reasons. But let me say that so far the results have not been up to expectations
> **SHYAM SARAN**

components required for assembly or manufacturing activities. But there will always be some factors beyond our control.

What does China gain from investing in India and allowing it to export products to markets such as the U.S. and Europe that are actively moving away from it?

SP: Currently, China has excess capacity in almost every industry. So, ideally, Chinese companies would not like to go and invest anywhere outside China. They have a $1.2 trillion trade surplus. But on the other side, because of this, there is immense pressure on Chinese companies to establish supply chains outside the country and reduce this surplus, as it is interfering with their relationship with many major economies. One gain is that China gets to establish a supply chain outside China, which will insulate its companies against China-focused tariffs in the future. The second is having a foothold in a country like India, which has the fastest-growing domestic market among large countries. This translates to a bigger chance of global market share. And something more intangible is what we can call India Premium, because the confluence of economic and geopolitical factors makes India a considerably attractive destination. We have not really tapped it to its full extent so far, as most of the early moments of the global supply chain after the pandemic have been to countries in ASEAN, for example.

SS: For Chinese smartphone manufacturers, the Chinese market itself is completely saturated. Most of the other markets that China has access to are also saturated. So the only country where the smartphone market is likely to keep growing in the future is India. This is why, despite some barriers and political tensions, these companies have decided not only to navigate the difficulties but also to stay in India. Another more problematic aspect is: can India have become a platform for Chinese manufacturing for export to third countries? It is problematic because India as an investment destination is still regarded as a somewhat difficult place to do business in. There is also the infrastructure logistics constraint. Former IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath recently mentioned that perhaps Indians do not realise that news about pollution across north India is also a big disincentive. So if China is looking for a production basis for accessing other markets, then it finds it much more congenial to go to Southeast Asian countries such as Vietnam or even Bangladesh.

Although China has a dominance in the manufacture of components, its share of U.S. smartphone imports has dwindled from 60% in 2016 to about 22% in 2026. Is this a good example of what the Economic Survey was hinting at, which is that we can push our exports to the U.S. and Europe with the help of Chinese investment and replace them in certain ways?

SS: When we got Apple here into India, we found that a very large number of components used in making the iPhone or iPad were manufactured in China. Therefore, unless we were able to access those components, it would have been very difficult to actually do this manufacturing. We had to create conditions for the suppliers of those components to set up units in India under a special provision, not as part and parcel of our general investment policy. We had to make concessions with respect to those Chinese companies that set up units in India, specifically for the iPhone industry. We may have thought that Apple's investment would have a major demonstration effect on other companies that are de-risking from China for geopolitical reasons. But let me say that so far the results have not been up to expectations. I wonder if we are in a position really to offer those kinds of concessions on a broader scale.

SP: China supplies intermediates and components continues to contribute to that supply chain. It is just that the last port or the last destination of imports into the U.S. has changed. So, if you see, China's exports to ASEAN have increased tremendously in the last five years. It is now the number one destination for Chinese exports. As a value share, I think China still contributes a significant percentage, but for geopolitical reasons, the U.S. does not prefer that final export to happen from China. So it has managed to discharge it into other countries whose dependencies on China have increased as a result.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Ajit Pawar, a man who has always kept his word

A leader remembered for his candid way of speaking and his discipline and dedication to public life

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit

"Kasa ahe, Vinaya *tai*!" is how Ajit Pawar would start talking when asked any question. The literal translation is, "I will tell you how it is, Vinaya *tai*!" '*Tai*', meaning sister, is a commonly used term of endearment and respect in Maharashtra. So is '*dada*', meaning elder brother. That is how people addressed him, how he referred to himself, and how he carried himself.

This was his typical way of starting his answers, even as he would try to be cautious in the beginning while speaking to the national media. Soon after, true to his nature, he would throw caution to the winds and speak.

I remember asking him about the fiscal prudence of the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana after it was rolled out, providing ₹1,500 to eligible women in the State. It was also a time when the State elections were coming up, and the Mahayuti had promised that the amount would be increased to ₹2,100 if voted back to power. I asked him, "How is that even possible? How will you manage the State's finances?"

While other leaders bypassed any serious discussion, emphasising that the promise would be fulfilled once the alliance returned to power, that was not how Pawar responded. He did not want to say it was impossible – that would have contradicted the alliance line – but he also did not want to say it was possible. He expressed concern about the burden it would place on the treasury. "*Kasa ahe*, Vinaya *tai*, we will have to take the Centre's help if anything else has to be done," he said, making it clear that any allocation beyond ₹1,500 was not possible on the State's own strength.

Pawar was known for speaking sharply, and for some, this was terrifying. Sometimes, it reflected his concern for their well-being. When former Maharashtra Home Minister R.R. Patil chewed tobacco, Pawar would rebuke him repeatedly.

My last interaction with Pawar was a day before his sudden demise. He walked out of his chamber in the State Secretariat after a Cabinet meeting, and I was standing right there. A day later in Baramati, his OSD (Officer on Special Duty) told me, amid the shock over the event that had happened, "He later asked about you". An interview for the local body elections was pending.

What stood out for me was his sense of discipline and dedication to public life. Once, last year, he promised me an interview. As I was about to start rolling the camera, his team requested some time, saying he had not had lunch for hours. I agreed and told them I would wait. Pawar said he would return in 10 minutes.

He kept his promise. He came, sat next to me, and said, "Ask whatever you want". I smiled as his team requested me to wind up at the earliest, as he had already been delayed for his next commitment. And yet, he indulged me for much longer than the given slot, answering all my questions, including the difficult ones, with all earnestness. To me, this was a man who appreciated the fact that I had waited for him and made up for it.

As journalists, we are used to walking into people's bungalows or offices at any hour. I had seen visitors queue up at his residence as early as 8 a.m. For someone who was invariably in his chair by 6 a.m., politics was less a vocation and more a relentless preoccupation. He would move through the State Secretariat with purposeful strides, rushing from one meeting to the next as his staff would brief him on the move. Taking representations in one hand, he would pass them over to designated staffers. Pawar was a leader who believed in multitasking.

The corridors of the State Assembly will no longer echo with his jokes, nor will the Secretariat see an administrator who routinely took officers to task.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Against the cold

A dogsled patrol unit crosses the ice in northern Greenland. While Denmark has allocated billions to bolster security across its vast Arctic territory, policing the frozen wilderness of northern and eastern Greenland in winter still relies on six low-tech, two-man teams, each with a dozen dogs; the elite navy unit operates in extreme conditions. AFP

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 30, 1976

Indo-U.S. panel plans many joint scientific projects

New Delhi, January 29: India and the United States will undertake joint scientific work in a number of fields including water and soil conservation, solar energy, rural uses, quick growing trees for fuel materials, photosynthetic efficiency, post-harvest technology to reduce food losses and solar electricity.

This was stated in a joint communique issued here to-day at the conclusion of the second meeting of the Indo-U.S. sub-commission on science and technology.

The sub-commission had been meeting here for the last three days. The member U.S. delegation was led by Dr. Oswald H. Ganley, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State. The Indian delegation was led by Dr. B. D. Nag Chaudhuri, Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University.

A new technique of house-wiring using flat conductor cables developed and being tested in the U.S. will be studied for its potential use in India. In the area of environment, programmes were identified in cleaning and washing of coal and the gas from coal combustion. It will also include waste water treatment, solid waste treatment and water purification. In the area of health, joint programmes will include nutrition, metabolic and degenerative diseases, health services, delivery and occupational safety.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 30, 1926

Poverty problem.

Captain J. W. Petavel's third of the series of University Special lectures on Poverty Problems was delivered last evening in the Senate Room. It was listened to with deep interest by an appreciative audience.

He gave a short resume of his first two lectures and said that to use the enormous productive power of labour for the good of the people in general, an entirely different social construction was needed. Through simplification of methods they could organise the young to use that power for the good of themselves, their parents and the community, without interfering with capitalism, which cared only for production and not for the individual. The new organisation should be one where everybody who wanted work would be given work and would get the necessaries of life.

From Page One

Economic Survey predicts bright India

Under the worst-case scenario, systemic financial, technological, and geopolitical stresses would amplify each other rather than taking place independently. A key emerging risk, the Survey said, was the level of highly-leveraged investments in artificial investment (AI).

It said these investments have exposed business models that are dependent on "optimistic" execution timelines, narrow customer concentration, and long-duration capital commitments.

"A correction in this segment would not end technological adoption, but it could tighten financial conditions, trigger risk aversion and spill over into broader capital markets," the Survey said.

Without naming any particular countries, the Survey said that if these developments also coincided with "geopolitical escalation or trade disruption", the result could be a sharper contraction in global liquidity, a jarring weakening of capital flows, and a "shift toward defensive economic responses across regions".

"While this remains a lower-probability scenario, its consequences would be significantly asymmetric," the Survey said. The macroeconomic consequences could be worse than those of the 2008 global financial crisis, it said.

The Survey gave its best-case scenario a 40%-45% chance of occurring. Under this scenario, conditions from 2025 would persist in 2026, albeit in a more fragile state.

In its third scenario, also assigned a probability of 40%-45%, the Survey said the probability of a "disorderly multipolar breakdown" rose significantly. "Under this outcome, strategic rivalry intensifies, the Russia-Ukraine conflict remains unresolved in a destabilising form, and collective security arrangements unravel," the Survey predicted.

Risks to India

The Survey said that in all three scenarios, India was relatively better off than most other countries but added that it still faced risks.

"The three scenarios pose a common risk for India: disruption of capital flows and the consequent impact on the rupee," the Survey said. "Only the degree and the duration will vary."

It added that this impact might not be confined to a year, and could be more enduring.

"In response, India needs to generate sufficient investor interest and export earnings in foreign currency to cover its rising import bill, as, regardless of the success of indigenisation efforts, rising imports will invariably accompany rising incomes," the Survey said.

SC stays 2026 UGC campus equity rules

"Ragging is one of the biggest problems in educational campuses. If a general category fresher resists ragging by a Scheduled Caste senior, there is a chance that the latter could file a complaint under the 2026 Regulations while the former has no remedy. It could mushroom into a police case. The fresher could be charged, put behind bars and his future would come to an end possibly on the very first day of college," the petitioners' lawyer submitted.

The Regulations, Ms. Jaising said, addressed a real and present problem of discrimination against students from Dalit and historically oppressed castes within higher education institutions, while Mr. Prasanna said discrimination was not solely based on caste.

Justice Bagchi said that rather than focussing exclusively on caste, the regulations should speak of an all-inclusive discrimination. "We should not go to the stage of segregated schools and hostels. The unity of India must be reflected in its educational institutions," Justice Bagchi noted.

Chief Justice Kant asked, "how will people behave outside the campus, if this is done inside the campus?"

India 'appreciates' U.S. addressing Gaza crisis

"India has advocated that the means to achieve this end is through dialogue and diplomacy," the Ambassador said in his remarks to a open debate on situation in West Asia .

"At the same time, let us be clear that terrorism has no place in civilised societies and must be condemned in all its forms and manifestations," Mr. Harish said while calling for commitment to alleviate the suffering of Palestinians.

The Resolution 2803, adopted in November last year, endorsed U.S. President Donald Trump's 'Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict' that entails that "Gaza will be a deradicalised terror-free zone that does not pose a threat to its neighbours" and will be redeveloped for the benefit of the people of Gaza. The resolution also welcomed the establishment of a 'Board of Peace' as a "transitional administration" with international legal personality that will set the framework, and coordinate funding for, the redevelopment of Gaza as per the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Harish said that the reconstruction and economic recovery of Gaza and the resumption of delivery of public services and humanitarian assistance is a herculean task calling for sustained support and commitment of the international community to alleviate the pain and suffering of the Palestinian brothers and sisters.

Leaders welcome SC's stay of UGC equity rules

Leaders say the ruling will calm social tensions; Union Minister Giriraj Singh thanks Modi, Shah, calls the order a 'relief' for students and teachers; OBC students' body, JNUSU oppose SC order

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

People staging a protest near the UGC Headquarters in New Delhi on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Leaders across the political spectrum welcomed the Supreme Court's stay of the University Grants Commission's (UGC) 2026 equity regulations amidst a controversy over its definition of "caste-based discrimination", with some calling the decision "appropriate" in light of the social tensions it had created.

However, certain student bodies, such as the All India OBC Students Association, and the Jawaharlal Nehru University's Students' Union (JNUSU) opposed the order. Political leaders such as Prakash Ambedkar of the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi in Maharashtra, John Brittas of the CPI(M), and Rashtriya Janata Dal MP Manoj Kumar Jha also opposed the court ruling.

On Thursday, the top court stayed the regulations while hearing pleas that challenged the UGC's definition of "caste-based discrimination" and argued that leaving the "general category" out was discriminatory. It said that the 2012 version of the regulations would be in effect.

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati said the decision was "appropriate" in light of the "social tensions" it created which could have been avoided had the UGC "given appropriate representation to the upper-caste society" in the preparation of the regulations.

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said, "True justice does not involve injustice to anyone; the honorable court ensures precisely this."

Union Minister Giriraj Singh first posted on X that the top court's intervention was "significant for protecting India's cultural unity and Sanatan values". But he deleted this post shortly, and shared another statement thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah. He said the top court's decision was a "relief to the country's students, teachers, and educational institutions".

Trinamool Congress leader Kalyan Banerjee, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi, and Congress's Pramod Tiwari were among other political leaders who welcomed the court intervention on the issue, which led to protests across parts of northern India. Hours after the stay order, the All India OBC Students' Association said the 2026 regulations were "vital instruments to safeguard the constitutional rights of marginalised and backward communities" in campuses.

Mr. Brittas said, "The government must have expanded the scope of this guideline, but this controversy has been whipped up, and it's an issue of the BJP. Students should not suffer due to this."

EC told to display list of names left out of T.N. rolls with reasons

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the Election Commission (EC) to publicly display the list of names excluded from Tamil Nadu's draft electoral rolls due to "logical discrepancies" as part of its special intensive revision (SIR) exercise.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant directed the list to be posted in taluk offices across Tamil Nadu. Those whose names are on it have been granted 10 days from the date of the list's display to submit their documents for verification.

Against each name, the list will briefly mention the "logical discrepancy" the EC found in their forms. "If reasons are not given, people would not know what 'discrepancy' was found against us," senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Amit Anand Tiwari, appearing for leaders from the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), the ruling party in Tamil Nadu, submitted.

The court directed that people who have received hearing notices can either submit documents for verification in person or through their authorised representatives, which includes booth-level agents of political parties. The objections and documents have to be submitted with taluk-level (sub-division) offices or with booth-level officers. The official who receives their documents or accords them a hearing should certify the receipt of documents and the conduct of such a hearing.

Approximately 1.16 crore people have received notices from the EC to submit documents for verification. The court directed the State government and the State Election Commission to provide the EC with the necessary human resources for the smooth functioning of the objections phase of the SIR.

'EC cannot act arbitrarily without reason'

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved for judgment a series of petitions challenging the constitutionality of the SIR exercise. The petitioners argued that the EC has arbitrarily assumed powers to "determine citizenship" overriding limitations clearly prescribed in parliamentary laws, Rules and its own manual without any providing "any good reason" whatsoever.

Congress says Form 7 being misused for targeted voter deletion in several States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

K.C. Venugopal

The Congress on Thursday alleged a "systematic and coordinated" attempt to delete the names of eligible voters across several States through the misuse of Form-7 during the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. In a letter to the Election Commission (EC), party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said the complaints pointed to a centrally driven mechanism that could disenfranchise lakhs of voters, particularly those from backward and marginalised communities.

Mr. Venugopal said party workers and media reports had flagged instances where persons "affiliated to the Bharatiya Janata Party" were found using preprinted Form-7 documents, meant only for specific, verifiable objections, to seek deletion of names on a mass scale. The letter notes that Form-7, published under Rule 26 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, carries a narrow statutory purpose and requires clear identity details and documentary grounds for any objection. Instead, the forms being submitted in bulk were allegedly riddled with illegible names, invalid phone numbers and EPIC details, and did not contain verifiable particulars of the objector.

"These actions, if remained unchecked and not taken cognisance of by the commission, will not only embolden the BJP in its efforts to wrongfully gain electoral advantage but will also lead to the disenfranchisement of lakhs of voters, especially those belonging to the backward, marginalised communities, who, as per the media reports, have been made the target of these deletions through Form 7s," Mr. Venugopal said in the letter.

According to the Congress, the pattern first emerged in Rajasthan and subsequently in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, and Kerala, suggesting that the issue was "neither localised nor isolated". In several cases, he said, individuals listed as objectors turned out to be BJP booth-level agents or denied any knowledge of having filed objections.

Ahead of PM's Israel visit, India strikes balancing act, hosts Arab Foreign Ministers

Suhasini Haidar
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Sources said that PM is expected to travel to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem at the end of February

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's expected visit to Israel next month, India is striking a balancing act, reaching out to the Arab world and hosting the second India-Arab Foreign Ministers meeting on Friday.

Palestine's Foreign Minister Varsen Aghabekian Shahin will attend the meeting, a day after she called upon India to contribute to the massive reconstruction work required in the war-ravaged Gaza Strip.

The Hindu had first reported that the Prime Minister was planning a trip to Israel, along with a much-delayed visit by Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu to India. Sources said that Mr. Modi is expected to travel to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem at the end of next month.

"The invitation was extended," Israeli Ambassador Reuven Azar told *ANI* in Delhi, in response to reports about the impending visit. "We are in preparations, and in due time, there will be declarations regarding specific dates," he added.

New Delhi is expected to discuss U.S. President Donald Trump's invitation to join the Board of Peace for Gaza with the leadership of Arab countries and Israel.

Amid war clouds gathering over a possible U.S.-Israel strike on Iran, Deputy National Security Adviser Pavan Kapoor travelled to Tehran on Wednesday, where he met his counterparts on the Iranian National Security Council and called on Iran's NSA Ali Larijani.

The possible outreach to Israel against the backdrop of developments involving the Gaza Strip and the restive condition in Iran acquired particular significance as Arab leaders began to arrive in Delhi. On Thursday, key arrivals included Mohamed Samir, Egypt's Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Amjad Adaileh, Permanent Representative of Jordan to the League of Arab States; Sultan bin Saad Al-Muraikhi, Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; and Ms. Shahin of Palestine.

At a press conference at the Embassy of Palestine on Thursday, Ms. Shahin said, "Gaza right now has enormous requirements and we look forward to India's participation in the reconstruction efforts.

Black box of aircraft that crashed in Baramati found; officials visit site

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Officials from the DGCA and Forensics Department gather evidence from the Baramati crash site on Thursday. ANI

The black box of the aircraft that crashed in Baramati, killing Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and four others, has been found, the Ministry of Civil Aviation said here on Thursday.

A black box is a small device that records information about an aircraft during its flight. It helps in the investigation of aviation accidents.

Officials said the Learjet-45 aircraft was equipped with a cockpit voice recorder and a flight data recorder, both of which were recovered from the crash site.

"Ensuring a thorough, transparent, and time-bound inquiry is a top priority. The Ministry of Civil Aviation remains fully committed to completing the investigation within a defined time frame," a press statement said.

The Director-General of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), G.V.G. Yugandhar, his three officers and a team from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, reached the crash site on Wednesday.

Officials have raised concerns over the decision to operate the flight despite poor visibility at Baramati, where the aircraft aborted its first landing attempt and crashed during a second approach. Pilots had informed air traffic control, which is operated by a local flying school, that they were struggling to visually locate the runway.

Visibility at the airstrip was 3,000 metres, well below the 5,000-metre minimum required for landings at airports without navigational aids, which was the case at Baramati airstrip as it is primarily used for pilot training.

'Peaceful criticism of govt. can't be called anti-national'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk on Thursday argued in the Supreme Court that peaceful criticism of the government's delay or inaction in including Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule could not be viewed as an anti-national activity.

Appearing before a Bench headed by Justice Aravind Kumar, senior advocate Kapil Sibal said the government was not the state.

APPEAL

Master Debashish Baisakha, Manipal Hospitals IP No.MH010206321, 3 years 11 Months son of Mr.Rabindra Baisakha is Diagnosed to be suffering from Congenital Heart Diseases S/P ICR for TOF done in July 2022, Present Diagnosis RVOT obstruction, RV Hypertensive, RVH +, Small Muscular VSD Insignificant. He requires to redo RVOT Repair. The Estimated cost of the surgery is Rs.6,00,000/-.

Please send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Fav. **Save Poor Lives** A/c Debashish Baisakha, **Our A/c Details:** S/B A/c No. 20000913487. S.B.I. R.A.Puram, IFSC CODE:SBIN0001855. Please Donate by G-pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. Donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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Survey raises concerns over unconditional cash transfers

It says such programmes may have short-term benefits, but the rapid scale-up and persistence raises concerns about fiscal viability and medium-term growth prospects when not supported by investments in employment, skills, and human capital

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

In a year when four major States go to the polls, of which only one is ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party, the Economic Survey 2025-26 has come out strongly against "unconditional cash transfers" (UCT), including to women. It highlighted that while these have short-term gains, they raise concerns about fiscal sustainability and medium-term growth.

Notably, last year's edition of the Survey had noted that cash transfers and loans to targeted poorer and lower-income households were having positive effects on consumption, allowing these households to fund various basic needs and debt repayments.

Assembly elections will be held in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Assam, along with Puducherry this year.

Money matters: Chief Economic Adviser V. Anantha Nageswaran with other officials addressing the media on the Economic Survey on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The Economic Survey notes that revenue expenditure continues to account for the bulk of State spending

Rising cash transfers

The Survey noted that aggregate spending on UCT programmes, particularly for women, is estimated at about ₹1.7 lakh crore for the current financial year 2025-26. It added that the number of States implementing them increased more than five-fold between 2022-23 and 2025-26, with around half of them estimated to be in revenue deficit.

The Survey further cited a study which estimated that such transfers amounted to 0.19-1.25% of the gross domestic products of States and 0.68-8.26% of their total budgetary expenditures.

"It is argued that cash transfers provide immediate income support, helping women meet unmet health and personal needs," the survey said. "Some view it as a return for their unpaid contribution to the GDP. However, their rapid scale-up and persistence raise concerns about fiscal sustainability and medium-term growth, particularly when not complemented by investments in employment, skills, and human capital," it added.

Increasing fiscal burden

The Survey noted that revenue expenditure continues to account for the bulk of State spending, accounting for 84% of total expenditure in 2023-24, albeit somewhat lower than the 86% in 2018-19.

"Within revenue expenditure, however, the composition has undergone a notable shift, with an increasing tilt towards unconditional cash transfers and other committed outlays," the Survey said.

"As these transfers absorb a rising share of available fiscal space, the scope for expanding productive capital expenditure becomes increasingly constrained, especially in an environment of limited revenues and elevated deficits," it added.

Fiscal trade-off

The Economic Survey pointed out the trade-off facing States: additional spending by States will crowd out resources for critical social and physical infrastructure, unless States increase their deficits.

However, deficits themselves cannot increase without further deteriorating the financial health of the States.

"These trade-offs are reinforced by programme design: many schemes lack sunset clauses or periodic reviews, increasing rigidity in revenue expenditure," the Survey said.

"As a result, capital expenditure, whose growth impact is stronger and more durable, often becomes the casualty when fiscal pressures intensify, with adverse implications for medium-term growth."

Survey calls for relaxing FRBM for Centre, but says States' finances worsening

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Economic Survey 2025-26 has argued in favour of a delay in strict fiscal targets for the Centre, such as those that had been set under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, saying the government currently needs flexibility to fine-tune fiscal policy "in response to a volatile and unpredictable geopolitical and geoeconomic environment".

The Survey noted that the Centre had stuck to its commitments to reduce its fiscal deficit, but also cautioned States about worsening finances brought on by lower revenues and higher expenditure, including on cash transfers.

The Survey said that after spiking to 9.2% of the GDP during the pandemic year of 2020-21, the Centre's fiscal deficit was on target to be 4.4% at the end of the current financial year, in line with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's commitment to halve the 2020-21 fiscal deficit in five years.

"It is noteworthy that the government was determined to and succeeded in bringing down the fiscal deficit ratio as promised, despite it not being a legislative target, even while improving the quality of fiscal expenditure with a concurrent emphasis on capital expenditure," the Survey said.

Balancing act

The Economic Survey (2025-26) says the government must have flexibility to fine-tune fiscal policy in response to emerging needs

- After spiking to **9.2% of GDP** during the pandemic year of 2020-21, the Centre's fiscal deficit is on target to be **4.4%** at the end of the current financial year, the Survey says, adding that it is noteworthy that the government has succeeded in bringing down the fiscal deficit ratio
- However, the Survey also says that it is important to retain the trust among financial markets and credit-rating agencies by working towards the **3% target** as envisaged in the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003

Fiscal flexibility

The FRBM Act's fiscal deficit target of 3% of GDP by March 2020 has been repeatedly deferred by the government, and the Survey acknowledged that there is a "perception" that this target and framework must be reinstated. However, it also went on to argue that this might not be the best approach.

"While it appears *prima facie* appropriate, in the highly uncertain current global environment, it is important to retain greater policy freedom and commit to targets that the government can deliver on," the Survey said.

"Since the FRBM Act was first enacted in 2003, the 3% target has been achieved only once."

This, it said, eroded India's fiscal credibility. Since then, it has taken five years of "sustained commitment to fiscal prudence" following the COVID-19 pandemic for this trust to be restored among financial markets and credit-rating agencies.

"It is important to retain that trust," the Survey emphasised.

Revenue deficit

While praising the Centre for its fiscal prudence, the Survey however cautioned State governments against worsening finances.

The number of States in revenue surplus reduced from 19 in 2018-19 to 11 in 2024-25, leading to an overall increase in the collective revenue deficit of States to 0.7% from 0.1% of GDP over this time period.

Gig workers face income volatility, says Survey

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Economic Survey has painted a rosy picture about the employment scenario in the country, and citing Periodic Labour Force Survey results, it maintained that there is a fall in unemployment.

The Survey, however, raised red flags over income volatility and lack of financial inclusion among gig workers. The Survey said the country had recorded significant employment growth in recent years, supported by structural reforms, tax rationalisation, and a sustained focus on skill development.

"Measures such as deregulation, GST 2.0, and labour reforms implemented by States have contributed to rising labour force participation and employment growth across industry and services," the Survey said.

Hailing the implementation of Labour Codes, the Survey added that the Codes would play a key role in supporting formal employment and improving security for women and gig workers.

"The gig economy, encompassing delivery, ride-sharing, and freelancing, has witnessed structural growth, transitioning informal jobs into ecosystem-integrated roles. From 77 lakh workers in 2020-21, the sector witnessed a 55% increase to 120 lakh workers in 2024-25...," it said.

The gig workers have 'thin-file' credit access, which remains a concern, it said. "Platform algorithms control work allocation, performance monitoring, wages, and supply-demand matching, raising concerns about algorithmic biases and burnout. About 40% of gig workers report earnings below ₹15,000 per month," the report added.

Survey backs decision to scrap MGNREGA, cites structural flaws, strong rural economy

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Economic Survey tabled in Parliament on Thursday defended the Union government's decision to scrap the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), arguing that though the programme helped stabilise rural incomes since its launch in 2005, it has long grappled with "deep structural issues".

The survey described the new rural employment legislation – the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 – as a "comprehensive legislative reset" designed to address shortcomings in the United Progressive Alliance-era scheme.

Citing NABARD's latest Rural Economic Conditions and Sentiments Survey (RECSS) from November 2025, the survey noted a "broad-based strengthening of rural economic fundamentals". According to RECSS, rural India is experiencing robust consumption, high income growth, rising investments, improved access to formal credit, lower inflation perceptions, better loan repayment capacity, and high satisfaction with rural infrastructure.

Rural realities: The survey describes the new rural jobs law as a 'comprehensive legislative reset' of the MGNREGA. FILE PHOTO

Another research report referenced by the survey shows rural consumption at a 17-quarter high, driven by firm growth in both agricultural and non-agricultural real wages.

Steady decline

Against this backdrop, the survey said that demand for MGNREGA has been steadily declining. Person-days generated fell from the pandemic peak of 389.09 crore in 2020-21 to 183.77 crore in 2025-26 (up to December 31, 2025), a drop of more than 53%. This decline, it argued, coincides with rural unemployment falling from 3.3% in 2020-21 to 2.5% in 2023-24, suggesting that many households are finding non-farm or other forms of work outside MGNREGA.

However, activists and workers' unions contend that demand was "artificially suppressed" due to low budget allocations and technological hurdles such as mandatory digital attendance, which they say created high barriers for workers.

The survey highlighted that improved rural economic conditions and reduced dependence on MGNREGA make it necessary to "re-examine the design and objectives of employment guarantee programmes in light of changing rural realities." It also acknowledged the scheme's contributions to stabilising incomes and creating basic infrastructure, which it said had "transformed the nature of rural employment requirements."

Other issues

Women's participation rose sharply from 48% in 2013-14 to 58.1% in 2024-25.

Yet the Economic Survey said these gains were overshadowed by "deeper structural issues", including mismatch between expenditure and physical progress, work not being executed on the ground, use of machines in labour-intensive tasks, and frequent bypassing of digital attendance systems.

Misappropriation accumulated over time, and only a small proportion of households completed 100 days of work post-pandemic, indicating that the scheme's architecture has "reached its limits".

India is emerging as ray of hope for the world, PM tells MPs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Urging MPs to send a message of "strength, commitment to democracy, and respect for decisions taken through democratic processes" during the Budget Session, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India was emerging as a ray of hope for the world.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the media on Thursday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

The current time, Mr. Modi said, is not for obstruction but one of resolve.

In his customary remarks ahead of the Budget Session, the Prime Minister asserted that India was moving rapidly on the "reform express", and thanked MPs for contributing their positive energies towards the unveiling of reforms.

"In this temple of democracy, India has the opportunity to send a message of strength, commitment to democracy, and respect for decisions taken through democratic processes – messages welcomed and accepted globally," he said.

The Budget Session of Parliament marked the culmination of the first quarter of the 21st century, and the beginning of the next quarter, Mr. Modi said.

Lauds FTA with EU

"The year has begun on a very positive note, with a confident India emerging as a ray of hope and a centre of attraction for the world," he said, referring to the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between India and the European Union announced this week. The FTA at the start of this quarter reflected the bright future of India's youth and the promising direction ahead, Mr. Modi said.

The "mother of all deals" with the European Union had opened up a vast market, and Indian goods would reach there at lower costs, he said, asking industry leaders and manufacturers to be on guard against complacency, and instead focus on quality.

Long impact

Entering this open market with the best quality products would not only earn profits from buyers across 27 EU countries, but also win their hearts, creating a long-lasting impact for decades, Mr. Modi said.

While India will compete with technology, absorb it, and accept its strengths, the government would never compromise on human-centric systems, he added.

Referring to President Droupadi Murmu's Address to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on Wednesday, he said it was an expression of the confidence of 140 crore citizens, and outlined the aspirations of the youth.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will table her ninth consecutive Budget on Sunday, Mr. Modi said, adding that she was the only woman Finance Minister in the country to achieve such a significant feat.

"This is a very glorious chapter of Indian democracy," the Prime Minister said.

LS members get copy of Economic Survey through WhatsApp

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Moments before Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey for 2025-26, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday announced that from this year, members would receive a soft copy of the document on WhatsApp.

The document will also continue to be uploaded on the members' portal.

Mr. Birla also sought suggestion from members on new innovations to conduct the proceedings more effectively. "We have carried out some changes and you will see some of them in coming days," Mr. Birla said.

"I would request you to give us suggestions for new innovations. We will try all the tools that can enhance the productivity of the honourable members."

Earlier, during Question Hour, Mr. Birla urged members not to keep talking to each other during proceedings of the House, and said they should step out of the chamber if they wanted prolonged discussions among themselves.

"Such behaviour is against the dignity of the House," the Lok Sabha Speaker said.

Hypocrisy-laden message to nation: Cong. slams Modi's remarks ahead of Session

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks on the Budget Session, saying he delivers his "usual hypocrisy-laden message to the nation" before the beginning of each session and "today's performance is part of this series".

The party was reacting to the Prime Minister's customary briefing at the beginning of the Budget Session.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said, "He [Mr. Modi] will not convene and chair all-party meetings to take the Opposition into confidence on national issues."

Jairam Ramesh

The Prime Minister will suddenly have Bills introduced at the last minute and bulldozed through Parliament without the necessary legislative scrutiny, he claimed.

Mr. Ramesh added that Modi would not sit in Parliament and respond to the concerns of Opposition leaders, and will instead make election rally speeches in both Houses.

"Before the beginning of each session, he will give his usual hypocrisy-laden '*desh ke naam sandesh*' with Parliament as his backdrop. Today's performance is part of this series," the senior Congress leader said.

INBRIEF

Republic Day celebrations conclude with Beating Retreat

As the sun set on the Raisina Hill, a medley of patriotic songs filled the air during the Beating Retreat ceremony on Thursday that celebrated 150 years of *Vande Mataram* and Operation Sindoor. The ceremony started with the arrival of President Droupadi Murmu in a traditional buggy. Ms. Murmu, who presided over the ceremony, which marks the closure of the Republic Day celebrations, was accompanied by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, the three Service chiefs, and other dignitaries.

Fodder shortage hurdle for livestock farming: Survey

Issues such as feed and fodder shortage, dependence on a narrow export basket and infrastructure gaps ail the livestock management and fisheries sectors in the country, according to the Economic Survey. Both the sectors have recorded strong expansion in the last decade, according to the Survey, despite such challenges. Between 2014-15 and 2023-24, the livestock sector registered a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12.77% at current prices, with its gross value added (GVA) increasing by nearly 195%. However, it pointed out that feed and fodder shortage is the most critical constraint, as livestock growth has outpaced fodder expansion.

SC asks States to evolve plan on domestic workers' wages

The Supreme Court on Thursday urged States to evolve "suitable mechanisms" and take a "final call" on bringing domestic workers under the legal protection and benefits of the Minimum Wages Act and the Code of Wages of 2019. A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant allowed domestic workers' unions, led by Penn Thozhilalargal Sangam, to submit comprehensive representations highlighting the grievances of one of the "most exploited" section of workers across the country. Senior advocate Raju Ramachandran, for the petitioner unions, urged the court to direct State governments to fulfil their constitutional obligations.

Assam CM cites SC remarks to defend 'Miya' comments

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, on Thursday, defended his remarks on the term '*Miya*', saying they were grounded in observations made by the Supreme Court rather than political or communal considerations. In a post on social media platform X, he said that his critics should revisit the court's findings on illegal migration in Assam, clarifying that the term was locally used in the context of undocumented Bangladeshi Muslim migration. He maintained that his comments reflected judicial concerns expressed years ago about the scale and impact of the issue. "...These are the court's own words," he wrote.

Economic Survey highlights uneven distribution of secondary schools

The report notes the need to 'internationalise' higher education and build State capacity in the sector; main reason for children dropping out continues to be the need to supplement household income, and domestic and care responsibilities

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

A key issue in achieving the target set by the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 to increase expected years of schooling in India to 15 from the current 13 was the "uneven distribution of schools", said the Economic Survey for 2025-26, released on Thursday ahead of the Budget.

Only about 17% schools provide secondary education in rural areas, it showed, and about 38% schools provide secondary education for urban areas.

The Survey showed that this corresponded with other sources of data that said the largest number of out-of-school children were of secondary school age (between 14 and 18 years), and the need to supplement household income, and domestic and care responsibilities continued to be the leading reasons for school dropouts.

"Building State capacity in higher education, fostering academia-industry collaboration, and expanding global engagement can further enhance the education system's responsiveness to the changing needs of the economy," the report said in its chapter discussing education. The report also touched upon the newly introduced Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan Bill, 2025 intended to "replace fragmented, overlapping regulations", and focused on policy interventions needed for the "internationalisation" of higher education.

The report shows that only about 17% schools in rural areas, and about 38% in urban areas provide secondary education. FILE PHOTO

"Notable gains in school enrolments and higher education sector, and improvement in innovation index also reflect how PM Modi's 'reform express' is fulfilling aspirations, driving transformations and ensuring inclusive growth," Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Thursday, commenting on the outlook on education in the Economic Survey.

Mr. Pradhan also shared a snapshot of the Survey's section on education, which highlights that India now has 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), 21 Indian Institutes of Management, and 20 All India Institutes of Medical Sciences, along with establishing two international IIT campuses (in Zanzibar and Abu Dhabi).

While India had improved enrolment at early levels of school education, the "secondary age-specific net enrolment (NER) remains low at 52.2%, highlighting the need to retain students beyond Grade VIII," the Survey said.

"To fully convert its vast human resource base into high quality human capital, India needs to raise its EYS (Expected Years of Schooling) to 15 years set by NEP's 5+3+3+4 schooling structure for ages 3-18.2," the Survey added.

Citing data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey of 2023-24, the Survey notes that nearly two crore adolescents aged between 14 and 18 were out of school.

"The single largest reason for adolescent dropout is the need to supplement household income, accounting for 44% of dropouts," it added. While over 67% boys cite the need to supplement household income as a reason for dropping out of school, 55% girls reported domestic and care responsibilities as the "major constraint", the Survey said.

"High dropout rates, driven by economic pressures, make integrating school-based vocational and skills education an urgent priority," the Survey noted, adding that current data from the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2023-24 showed that only 0.97% of adolescents aged between 14 and 18 had received institutional skilling, with 91.94% having received none.

A major thrust of the Survey's section on higher education is the need to "internationalise" the sector, along with developing State capacities for higher education, considering that over 81% of higher education enrolments were in State institutions.

Agricultural growth slows down to 3.5% in 2025-26

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Economic Survey, tabled in Parliament on Thursday, has noted that the average annual growth rate in the agriculture and allied sector over the past five years has been around 4.4% at constant prices. However, in the second quarter of 2025-26, the agriculture sector registered a growth of 3.5%, almost one percentage point less than the average. "The decadal growth of 4.45% (2015-16 to 2024-25), the highest in comparison to previous decades, has primarily resulted from the strong performance in livestock (7.1%) and fishing and aquaculture (8.8%), followed by the crop sector at 3.5%," it added.

The country's foodgrains production witnessed a steady increase, despite certain challenges, the Survey said. "India's foodgrain production is estimated to have reached 3,577.3 lakh tonnes (lt) in agriculture year 2024-25. This growth is driven by higher output of rice, wheat, maize and coarse cereals," it added.

Survey calls for tackling rising digital addiction, mental health problems

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Economic Survey 2025-26, presented on Thursday, has flagged the rapid rise of digital addiction and screen-related mental health problems as a major healthcare issue, particularly among children and adolescents.

The Survey has recommended structured interventions including cybersafety education, peer-mentor programmes, mandatory physical activity in schools, parental training on screen-time management, age-appropriate digital access policies, and platform accountability for harmful content.

It also suggests network-level safeguards such as differentiated data plans for educational-versus-recreational use and default blocking of high-risk content categories.

On mental healthcare delivery, the Survey proposed expanding the national Tele-MANAS programme beyond crisis counselling to actively address digital addiction. Integration with school and college systems and training of dedicated counsellors is recommended to normalise help-seeking behaviour and enable early intervention at scale.

It suggests mobile network-level safeguards such as differentiated data plans for educational-versus-recreational use. FILE PHOTO

The Survey also underlined the importance of technology-enabled public health surveillance and service delivery and stated that sustained investment in preventive care, nutrition, mental health, digital wellness and community-level health systems was essential to protect India's demographic dividend and ensure a healthier, more productive workforce in the coming decades.

Decline in MMR

It also noted that since 1990, India had reduced its maternal mortality rate (MMR) by 86%, far exceeding the global average of 48%. "A 78% decline in the under-five mortality rate (U5MR) was achieved, surpassing the global reduction of 61% and a 70% decline in the neonatal mortality rate (NMR) compared to 54% globally during 1990 to 2023. The infant mortality rate (IMR) marked a drop of more than 37% over the past decade, declining from 40 deaths per thousand live births in 2013 to 25 in 2023," it said.

Roma Kumar, clinical psychologist, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said the pandemic accelerated screen dependence as isolation pushed individuals toward digital spaces for connection. "Excessive screen time aggravates all lifestyle diseases. Preventive strategies include exercise, stress management, and lifestyle changes from a young age," she said.

Vinay Aggarwal, former national president, Indian Medical Association (IMA), said that India had an inappropriate share of both infectious and non-infectious diseases. "Burdened by the thrifty gene inherited over centuries, the current lifestyle and food choices end up in fatty liver, obesity, and diabetes mellitus," Dr. Aggarwal added.

India's urban story one of unfinished promise: Survey

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indian cities are sites of daily strain such as long commutes, uneven services, and shared spaces that often fall short of collective expectations, the Economic Survey 2025-26 said on Thursday.

The pre-Budget document noted that India's urban story was neither one of decline nor adequacy, but of unfinished promise, and said that many urban pressures stem from persistent supply-side constraints in land, housing, and mobility.

"Restricted density, unclear titles and limited land recycling constrain affordable housing, while transport systems remain overly reliant on private vehicles," it said.

It observed that while core services such as sanitation, waste, and water services had expanded markedly, these must now evolve from expansion to reliability, circularity, and efficiency.

"However, beneath these sectoral stresses lie a deeper institutional issue: fragmented metropolitan governance and limited fiscal autonomy for cities to plan, finance and deliver at scale," it said.

Apart from infrastructure, the Survey said there was a need to improve the intangible foundations of urban life, such as civic norms, shared responsibility and respect for public spaces.

It pointed out that the quality of the urban experience depends as much on collective behaviour as on budgets and bridges.

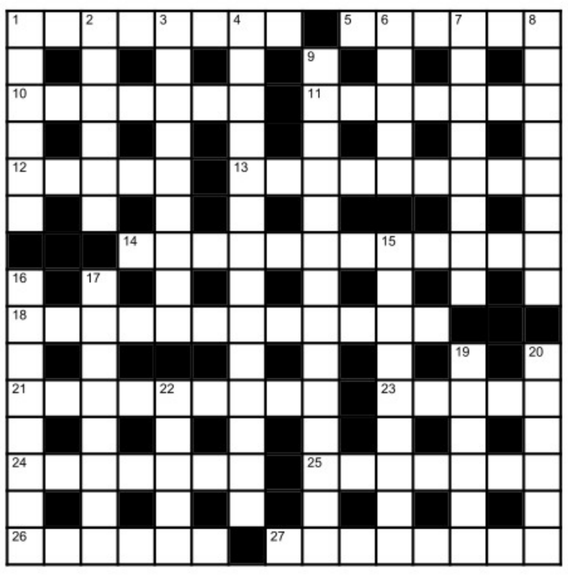
"India's cities can work better for their citizens. If planning, finance and governance align around people-centric outcomes, India's cities can move from managing growth to truly benefiting from it...," it said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14704

(set by Dr. X)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Star's rebellious boy does meth at premiere (8)
5 Article about unionist becoming insolvent (6)
10 Succeeded, made a comeback after good fortune in Indian city (7)
11 Most attractive presenter entertaining models on base (7)
12 Coach in academy inspires mate (5)
13 Liaison with hot rogue when husband's away leads to separation (9)
14 Groan about working for lout, extremely rude and bossy type of person (7,5)
18 See head of elite club terribly overwhelmed by anxiety in notorious controversy (5,7)
21 Feeling excited, turned on by drug (9)
23 Escort inviting prince for orgy (5)
24 See 9 Down
25 Charged with loud exclamation of disgust to interrupt scoundrel (7)
26 University girl catches ultimately vile pervert (6)
27 Short joke playing in reel's funny (3-5)

Down

1 Marry girl finally, overwhelmed by excitement (6)
2 Help out emcee entertaining posh relatives (4,2)
3 Bars almost everywhere in old Indian city (9)
4 Unhappy with the modus operandi in new whodunnit (4,2,3,5)
6 Cavities in infant, rampant (5)
7 Arguments in building (8)
8 Rodent-eating serpent in a tanker abandoned outside society (3,5)
9/24 Inadvertently harm one's own interests, leaving one with a limp perhaps? (5,7,2,3,4)
15 Stop in jungle with everyone (9)
16 No Bumrah ultimately! Somehow, coach must adapt (8)
17 Start to seductively take off summer garment (8)
19 Men drink outside island's base (6)
20 Decay in strong organic compound (6)
22 Rebels in revolutionary activity around southern border of Mexico (5)

SUDOKU

	5	2	6	9		1		
	9				5			
1			4	3				
6	8		3					9
	3						2	
7					8		6	4
				8	6			2
			5				1	
		9		4	3	5	7	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS6776 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

R	H	W	S	D	K	N	R	
E	L	E	M	E	N	T	I	M
G	R	E	U	S	L	T	I	
A	V	O	I	D	E	D	E	R
O	S	I	O	N	R	I	A	G
O	D	D	E	C	I	S	I	O
N	S	R	A	N	G	E	U	
E	A	A	E	R	A	I	N	B
O	W	S	A	M	P	L	E	R
E	D	S	A	M				
A	G	E	N	T	N	E	G	L
E	C	T	E	D	L	N	A	D
U	I	E	I	N	T	E	N	S
E	M	I	N	I	M	U	M	S
I	C	R	M	O	B	A	E	X
T	R	E	M	E	E	A	S	T
E	R	N	D	Y	S	D	D	E
R	D							

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	5	1	9	6	7	8	3	2
9	2	3	4	8	1	5	7	6
7	8	6	3	5	2	9	1	4
5	1	9	8	7	4	2	6	3
8	3	7	6	2	9	1	4	5
2	6	4	5	1	3	7	9	8
1	9	5	2	3	6	4	8	7
3	4	2	7	9	8	6	5	1
6	7	8	1	4	5	3	2	9

FAITH

Guru transforms our lives

Srimad Bhagavatam expounds the ideals of Bhakti, Jnana, and Vairagya – devotion, knowledge and renunciation. It declares that the true purpose of human life is to worship the Lord, sing His divine glories, and listen to His sacred pastimes. Sadhus and sanyasis, by their nature, wander for the welfare of humanity. Through their teachings and stories of the Lord's virtues, they transform our lives. They make our time on earth meaningful and purposeful.

The sins that arise in our samsara are destroyed through the sacred association we establish with noble souls. Who, then, is a true devotee or Bhagavata? Sri Kesava Vajapeya swami in a discourse explained that a true Bhagavata is one who sees God in all beings and in everything. Such a devotee stays unattached to all worldly objects. He holds steadfast attachment only to the Lord.

In the Bhagavad Gita, Lord Krishna declares: "Know this through prostration, sincere questioning, and devoted service; the wise who have realised the truth will impart knowledge unto you". "Our Acharyas and noble souls are not only endowed with profound wisdom but are also filled with compassion towards us."

They alone know what we truly need. By their grace, our thoughts are purified. This purification is essential for sincere worship. Therefore, we must seek such noble souls as our Acharyas. We should firmly believe that God Himself has come in the form of the Guru or Acharya to bless us. We should not try to anticipate or calculate the benefits from our good deeds.

Bhakti means placing our unwavering faith in God. It is also offering our heartfelt gratitude to Him.

INBRIEF

'Services stood as a stabilising force amid global uncertainty'

Against the backdrop of global uncertainty and subdued global industrial activity, India's services sector has emerged as a stabilising force, contributing more than half of the country's Gross Value Added (GVA) and serving as a major driver of exports and employment, the Economic Survey 2025-26 pointed out. The Survey established that services have underpinned economic momentum, buffered external shocks, and supported urban employment dynamics.

'High customer acquisition costs in insurance industry'

Customer acquisition in the insurance industry continues to depend heavily on expensive intermediary networks inspite of the push for digital transformation, Economic Survey 2025-26 said, making a case for rationalising the cost structure. Escalating acquisition and administrative costs have resulted in higher operating expenses for both life and non-life insurers, according to the Survey. The authors of the Survey said instead of technology leading to cost rationalisation, the costs have steadily increased with a significant portion of premiums being consumed by distribution overheads.

'AI-led correction likely to spill over to capital markets'

The Economic Survey flagged concerns over correction in the AI segment coupled with geopolitical tensions to spill over to global financial markets. Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran wrote, "The recent phase of highly leveraged AI-infrastructure investment exposed business models that are dependent on optimistic execution timelines, narrow customer concentration and long duration capital commitments. A correction in this segment would not end technological adoption, but tighten financial conditions, trigger risk aversion and spill over into broader capital markets."

Tata Motors Q3 net slides 48% to ₹705 cr. on labour codes

Commercial Vehicles major Tata Motors Ltd. (TML) reported a 48% year-on-year fall in consolidated net profit to ₹705 crore for the third quarter ended December on account of one-time impact of labour code and demerger. Revenue climbed 16% to ₹21,732 crore, according to the company. Exceptional items include impact of new labour codes (₹603 crore) demerger (₹962 crore) and acquisition cost (₹82 crore). The impact of these and other items stood at ₹1,500 crore on standalone financials and at ₹1,600 crore on consolidated financials.

Swiggy's Q3 loss widens to ₹1,065 crore on Q-Com

Food delivery and quick commerce major Swiggy, which owns Instamart, reported a widening of its losses for the third quarter ended December at ₹1,065 crore, as losses from the quick commerce segment continued and rising advertising and sales expenditure. The company reported a loss of ₹799 crore on a consolidated basis for the year-earlier period. Flagging 'irrational competition', Swiggy co-founder and Group CEO Sriharsha Majety said investments into lower consumer-side monetisation have not yielded the desired incremental order-growth. PTI

Critical minerals are "strategic choke-points" in energy transition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Metals like lithium, cobalt, nickel, copper and rare earth elements have become new strategic choke-points in shaping the contours of a low-carbon economy, Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran stated in the latest Economic Survey.

He explained that this was because they had an influence on energy security, industrial competitiveness, and geopolitical power, as observed through several trade restrictions on export of critical minerals by source countries.

Further, the CEA stated that as demand for such minerals spur, advanced economies are responding by promoting "standards-based critical mineral markets" that emphasise sustainability, traceability and governance. While the standards may be necessary, compliance entails "substantial costs".

According to the CEA, the existing dynamics could prompt three broad challenges for developing countries. The first of these entails presenting barriers because of the associated upfront costs and ongoing expenses that "can be quite steep".

The other relates to potential "narrowly defined or asymmetrically enforced standards". They could trap developing countries in the lowest-value segments of supply chains, exporting raw materials whilst the value-added processing and manufacturing continue being concentrated in advanced economies, he observed.

"Sustainability premiums that tend to raise mineral prices without parallel support for finance, technology and capacity building will increase costs to transitioning globally and disproportionately impacting emerging economies," the CEA stated.

Financial sector regulators must walk the tightrope: Economic Survey

They must balance between openness to global capital flows and need to insulate domestic economy from external shocks, says Survey; shorter leash for emerging or fragile segments and greater latitude for mature markets recommended

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

In today's era dominated by global uncertainties, India's financial sector regulators must walk the tightrope to balance growth with stability, according to the Economic Survey 2025-26 which was tabled in Parliament on Thursday.

"They must strike a balance between openness to global capital flows and the need to insulate the domestic economy from volatile external shocks," the Survey pointed out.

Moreover, given India's heterogeneous financial landscape, where sophisticated metropolitan markets coexist alongside underserved rural segments, the Survey recommended that regulators must exercise differentiated supervision: a shorter leash for emerging or fragile segments prone to excessive risk-taking and greater latitude for mature markets.

Pat on the back: SEBI has demonstrated a parallel commitment to regulatory modernisation and investor protection. REUTERS

"In this context, so far, India's financial sector regulators have managed the balancing act deftly," the Survey stated.

As per the Economic Survey, India's monetary and financial sectors exhibited robust performance in FY26 (April-December 2025), underpinned by strategic policy actions and structural resilience across financial intermediation channels.

"A significant improvement has been observed in the asset quality of scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), as evidenced by their GNPA ratio standing at 2.2% in September 2025 and net NPA ratio at 0.5% in September 2025, having reached a multi-decadal low level and record low level, respectively," the Survey noted.

As of December 31, 2025, the year-on-year growth in outstanding credit by Scheduled Commercial Banks increased to 14.5% compared with 11.2% in December 2024, the Survey pointed out.

Stating that during FY26 (till December 2025), 2.35 crore of demat accounts were added, pushing the total count beyond 21.6 crore, it said the 12-crore mark milestone of unique investors was crossed in September 2025, with nearly a fourth of them being women.

The mutual fund industry also expanded, with 5.9 crore unique investors as of the end of December 2025, of which 3.5 crore (as of November 2025) were from non-tier-I and tier-II cities, underscoring the diffusion of financial participation beyond traditional urban centres.

The Survey noted that SEBI had demonstrated a parallel commitment to regulatory modernisation and investor protection.

CEA recommends rationalising tax on debt-assets

Development of debt instruments like corporate bonds as investment avenues will reduce capital costs, mobilise savings efficiently and offer reliable income generating products, CEA V. Anantha Nageswaran wrote.

'Export momentum can be sustained with focus on higher value products'

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

In order to sustain the export momentum, the focus should be on diversification towards higher-value, more sophisticated products and new destinations. Targeted industrial policies, technological improvements, and export-driven ecosystems can yield significant benefits, according to the Economic Survey 2025-2026.

The current global trade scenario is of a fragmented and cautious world where "protectionist instincts are taking precedence over outreach for imports, supply chains are being recalibrated in response to geopolitical shifts, and the terms of engagement are shifting more toward bilateralism."

The current global trade scenario is of a fragmented and cautious world.

Trade policy uncertainty driven by rising protectionism and retaliatory tariffs, strategic decoupling among major economies and the migration of national security tools into the domain of trade policy are the challenges. Hence, economies likely to be impacted by these shifts are turning inward, the Survey noted.

The Trade Policy Uncertainty Index and the Global Economic Policy Uncertainty Index peaked in April 2025, driven by the weakening of regional and multilateral trade agreements that had previously provided stability, countries' pursuit of sovereign interests through industrial policies, and intensifying competition for rare earth minerals.

An expanding network of Free Trade Agreements supports India's trade strategy by offering reliable market access amid global uncertainty, according to the Economic Survey.

Manufacturing sector needs mission-based approach: Eco Survey

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The MSME sector is well-positioned to harness the current momentum in the manufacturing sector

Manufacturing industries are central to employment, productivity, exports, and strategic resilience. They warrant a mission-oriented approach beyond incentive-based interventions, the Economic Survey 2025-2026 observed.

In the midst of economic transformation, geopolitical uncertainty, and rapid technological change, manufacturing capacity needs to be viewed as a strategic national asset. And, MSMEs are crucial as they should evolve from micro-scale production to deeper participation in formal and export-linked supply chains.

"The next phase of industrialisation will require a calibrated shift from a model centred mainly on import substitution towards one focused on scale, competitiveness, innovation and deeper integration into GVCs." it noted.

MSMEs account for approximately 35.4 % of manufacturing, around 48.58% of exports, and 31.1% of GDP in the country. Over 7.47 crore enterprises employing over 32.82 crore persons.

The MSME sector is well-positioned to harness the current momentum in the manufacturing sector.

Native language Voice-first AI to expand digital inclusion: Survey

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Native language and voice-first AI systems can extend the reach of digital services to populations historically excluded from text-heavy and bandwidth intensive platforms, as per the Economic Survey.

By enabling interaction in native languages and functioning effectively on low-cost devices, such frugal AI pathways align scale with digital inclusion.

India top contributor

India entered the AI era with notable strengths: It currently ranks among the top global contributors to AI research output; possesses a deep pool of technical talent in the field of AI and a highly AI-literate labour force outranked only by the U.S. as of 2024.

Global financial markets grapple with the impact introduced by new technologies such as AI, acknowledged the survey, highlighting the IMF's Financial Stability Report (FSR) of October 2025 forecast a higher likelihood of herding behaviour in financial markets as global investors may end up deploying similar AI models.

The report noted compared to previous decades, investors had become increasingly sensitive to micro-information signals from social media.

Notable rise in India's oil sources, CEA highlights in Survey

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

There has been a "notable increase" in the number of countries from where India imports crude oil, Chief Economic Advisor C. Anantha Nageswaran states in the latest Economic Survey.

Until November in FY26, crude oil imports from Libya, Egypt, Brazil, U.S. and Brunei climbed 'significantly' compared with the same period last year. He added the uptick was a dip in imports from Russia, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Venezuela.

Diversification push

The trend is in line with New Delhi's push for diversification of sources for procuring oil to cushion itself from global geopolitical uncertainties. The Chief Economic Advisor also observed, "Although imports from other countries account for a significant portion of India's crude oil imports, the shares of the U.S., Egypt, UAE, Nigeria and Libya have increased."

Between April and November in FY26, U.S.' share in India's imports basket rose to 8.1% from 4.6% in the same period last fiscal. Further, United Arab Emirates' share increased from 9.4% to 11.1%, Libya from 0.1% to 0.5%, Egypt from 0.3% to 1.4% and Nigeria from 2.2% to 3.3%.

Cutting carbon emissions should not be the top priority: Survey

Jacob P. Koshy
NEW DELHI

"Climate change will have meaningful consequences, but it is unlikely to produce civilisational collapse; innovation... and targeted investments are more durable low-carbon pathways than rapidly imposed constraints that erode growth," the 2025-26 Economic Survey has said in a chapter on environment and climate change.

The Survey in its past iterations had framed climate change as a global risk that threatens food production, livelihoods and had called upon countries – at various times – to "support" developing countries such as India to transition away from fossil fuel but at the same time being cognisant of its developmental needs, the latest survey explicitly says mitigation (undertaking emission cuts) ought to be subservient to adaptation.

This broadly echoes India's stance in climate negotiations.

"Scarce fiscal resources should not be diverted away from health, agriculture and poverty reduction to accelerate near-term mitigation milestones. Growth and prosperity strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability and must therefore be treated as complementary to climate strategy rather than competing with it...Development is, in itself, a form of adaptation," it said.

'Ethanol blending has impact on food security'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The implications of ethanol-blending programme and expansion area under maize replacing other crops on food security are non-trivial, the Economic Survey, tabled in Parliament on Thursday, has found. Citing international experience, the Survey has cautioned that an increase in the cultivation of maize could result in further import of edible oil and an increase in food prices.

Noting that shifts in cultivation patterns are particularly visible in States such as Maharashtra and Karnataka, where maize increasingly competes directly with pulses, oilseeds, soyabean, millets and cotton for land, water and labour, the Survey said the expected reduction in paddy acreage, however, has not materialised. "From a food security perspective, the implications are non-trivial. Pulses and oilseeds are structurally important to India's consumption basket and nutritional outcomes, yet they are shifting lower down the priority order for the nation's cultivators," the Survey said.

Huge gains: As of August 2025, ethanol blending saved India over ₹1.44 lakh crore in foreign exchange. GETTY IMAGES /ISTOCK

Risk of imbalance

Over time, the Survey warned, this imbalance will risk "entrenching India's dependence" on edible oil imports and "exposing domestic food prices to greater volatility" during supply shocks. "This highlights an emerging tension between Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in energy and Aatmanirbharta in food."

The blending programme had delivered "tangible gains" in crude oil substitution, reduced foreign exchange outflows, reduced emissions and increased payments to farmers. "As of August 2025, ethanol blending has saved India more than ₹1.44 lakh crore in foreign exchange and facilitated the substitution of about 245 lakh metric tonne of crude oil."

BRUSSELS

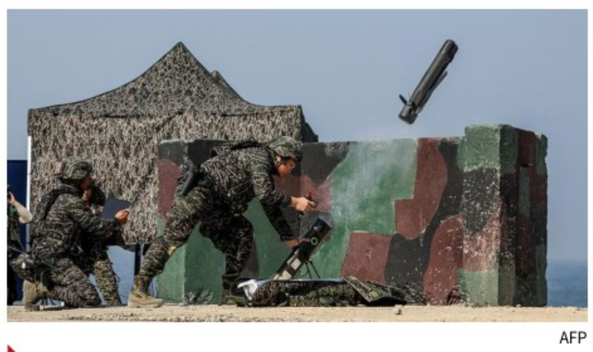
EU lists Iran's IRGC as terrorist organisation over crackdown

REUTERS

The European Union has listed Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation over Tehran's bloody crackdown on nationwide protests, the bloc's top diplomat said in a post on X on Thursday. Kaja Kallas, the EU's foreign policy chief, said that Foreign Ministers unanimously agreed on the designation. AP

KAOHSIUNG

Taiwan practises repelling a Chinese assault from the sea



AFP

Taiwan's military on Thursday simulated repelling a Chinese assault from the sea, integrating shore-launched missiles and drones with patrol boats. The drill, on a beach in Kaohsiung, imagined a scenario where Taiwan first detected an unknown boat and then sends drones to investigate. REUTERS

WASHINGTON

Hamas set to disarm in Gaza deal progress, Trump tells Cabinet meet

AP

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday that Hamas would give up weapons, a step the militants have not confirmed, in what would be a major step forward in a fragile ceasefire with Israel. "A lot of people said they'll never disarm. It looks like they're going to disarm," Mr. Trump told a Cabinet meeting. AFP

MOSCOW

Moscow records heaviest snowfall in over 200 years; trains delayed

AP

Russia's capital Moscow has this month seen the largest snowfall in more than 200 years, Moscow State University meteorologists said on Thursday. Commuter trains were delayed, and cars were stuck in long traffic jams on Thursday evening. Snow piles on the ground reached as high as 60 cm in some parts of the capital. AFP

Russian drone attack kills 3 in southern Ukraine

Associated Press
KYIV

A Russian drone attack killed three persons in Ukraine's southern Zaporizhzhia region overnight, authorities said on Thursday, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned that Moscow is planning another large-scale barrage despite plans for further U.S.-brokered peace talks at the weekend.

The Zaporizhzhia strike caused a major blaze in an apartment building, according to emergency services.

Firefighters also worked through the night to put out fires in the central Dnipropetrovsk region, where two persons were injured, officials said.

Mr. Zelenskyy said Ukrainian intelligence reports indicate Russia is assembling forces for a major aerial attack. Previous large attacks, sometimes involving more than 800 drones as well as cruise and ballistic missiles, have targeted the Ukrainian power grid.

The ongoing attacks discredit the peace talks, Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Negotiations between the two sides are poised to resume on Sunday.

Fingers on the trigger, says Iran after Trump's warning

Our brave Armed Forces are prepared to immediately and powerfully respond to any aggression against Iran, air, and sea, says Foreign Minister Araghchi; ready for a 'fair, equitable' deal, he adds

Stanly Johny

A day after U.S. President Donald Trump warned that time was running out for Iran to reach a deal on its nuclear programme, Tehran said on Thursday that its armed forces had their "fingers on the trigger", and vowed to respond with "unprecedented" response, targeting "all those supporting the aggressor".

"Our brave Armed Forces are prepared – with their fingers on the trigger – to immediately and powerfully respond to ANY aggression against our beloved land, air, and sea," Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrote in a social media post, in response to Mr. Trump's warning that "a massive armada" was heading towards Iran.

"Hopefully Iran will quickly come to the table and negotiate a fair and equitable deal - No nuclear weapons," Mr. Trump had said, adding that if Iran failed to do so, the U.S. forces deployed to West Asia were "ready to rapidly fulfil" their mission, "with speed and violence".

Steady preparations: Sailors taxiing an F/A-18E Super Hornet on the flight deck of *USS Abraham Lincoln* in the Indian Ocean. AP

Mr. Araghchi said Iran was ready for a "fair and equitable" deal, but not for coercion.

"Iran has always welcomed a mutually beneficial, fair and equitable NUCLEAR DEAL – on equal footing, and free from coercion, threats, and intimidation – which ensures Iran's rights to PEACEFUL nuclear technology, and guarantees NO NUCLEAR WEAPONS," he wrote. "Such weapons have no place in our security calculations and we have NEVER sought to acquire them."

But he added that Iran would respond to force with force. "The valuable lessons learned from the 12-Day War have enabled us to respond even more strongly, rapidly, and profoundly," said Mr. Araghchi, referring to the June 2025 Israeli-U.S. attack on Iran.

Shifted focus

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had declared a "historic victory" after the June war, and Mr. Trump had claimed that his strikes had "obliterated" Iran's nuclear facilities. But Mr. Trump has now shifted his focus back to Iran's nuclear programme, asking Tehran to reach a deal without delay.

Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and an adviser of Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, said a limited U.S. strike is an "illusion". "Any military action by the U.S. – from any origin and at any level – will be considered the start of war, and its response will be immediate, all out, and unprecedented, targeting [the] heart of Tel Aviv and all those supporting the aggressor," he wrote in a social media post in Arabic, Hebrew, Russian, Chinese and English.

Earlier in the day, *CNN* reported that Mr. Trump was considering "a major new strike" on Iran after preliminary talks between Washington and Tehran over the country's nuclear programme and ballistic missile production failed to make progress. The options he is weighing include strikes on Iran's leadership and nuclear, military and government institutions, according to the report.

U.K.'s Starmer signals China reset in discussions with Xi

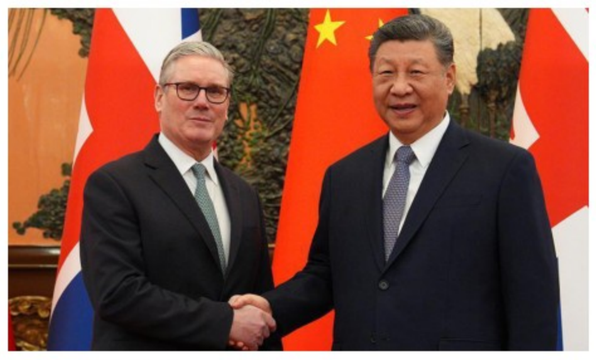
Reuters
BEIJING

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer told Chinese President Xi Jinping on Thursday that he wanted to build a "sophisticated relationship" with Beijing to bolster security and the economy, signalling a reset after years of strained ties.

On the key day of his four-day visit to China, the first by a British Prime Minister in eight years, Mr. Starmer spent around three hours with Mr. Xi during a formal summit and a lunch, during which the pair also chatted about soccer and Shakespeare.

The British leader, whose centre-left Labour government has struggled to deliver the economic growth it promised, has made improving relations with the world's second-largest economy a priority, despite misgivings about espionage and human rights.

"China is a vital player on the global stage, and it's vital that we build a more sophisticated relationship where we can identify opportunities to collaborate, but of course, also allow a meaningful dialogue on areas where we disagree," Mr. Starmer told Mr. Xi at the start of their meeting.



Building relations: Keir Starmer, left, shakes hands with Xi Jinping ahead of a meeting in Beijing on Thursday. AP

Mr. Xi said ties with Britain had gone through "twists and turns" that did not serve the interests of either country and that China was ready to develop a long-term partnership.

Lasting result

"We can deliver a result that can withstand the test of history," the Chinese leader told Mr. Starmer, flanked by his top Ministers, at their summit at the Great Hall of the People.

Mr. Starmer is the latest Western leader to engage in a flurry of diplomacy with China, as nations hedge against unpredictability from the United States under President Donald Trump.

Mr. Trump's on-off threats of trade tariffs and pledges to grab control of Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark, have rankled long-standing allies like Britain.

Mr. Starmer's visit immediately follows that of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, who signed an economic deal with Beijing to tear down trade barriers, drawing Mr. Trump's ire.

'Made progress'

The British leader told presspersons he had made progress in discussions with Beijing to reduce tariffs on whisky, while Mr. Xi said China would consider waiving visas for British nationals.

Mr. Starmer is seeking Beijing's help to bolster security, announcing that the countries would jointly tackle gangs involved in trafficking illegal migrants.

Hasina denounces Feb. 12 election from her exile in India

Associated Press
DHAKA

More than 127 million people in Bangladesh are eligible to vote in the February 12 election

From her exile in India, Bangladesh's ousted leader Sheikh Hasina has slammed the country's upcoming election after her party was barred from the polls, remarks that could deepen tensions ahead of the pivotal vote next month.

Ms. Hasina, who was sentenced to death for her crackdown on a student uprising in 2024 that killed hundreds of people and led to the toppling of her 15-year rule, warned in an email to *The Associated Press* last week that without inclusive and free and fair elections, Bangladesh will face prolonged instability.

She also claimed that Bangladesh's interim government led by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus deliberately disenfranchised millions of her supporters by excluding her party – the former ruling Awami League – from the election.

"Each time political participation is denied to a significant portion of the population, it deepens resentment, delegitimises institutions and creates the conditions for future instability," she wrote.

"A government born of exclusion cannot unite a divided nation," Ms. Hasina added.

Crucial juncture

More than 127 million people in Bangladesh are eligible to vote in the February 12 election, widely seen as the country's most consequential in decades and the first since Ms. Hasina's removal from power after the mass uprising.

Mr. Yunus' interim administration is overseeing the process, with voters also weighing a proposed constitutional referendum on sweeping political reforms. Campaigning started last week, with rallies in the capital, Dhaka, and elsewhere.

Mr. Yunus has promised a free and fair election, but critics question whether the process will meet democratic standards and whether it will be genuinely inclusive after the ban on Hasina's Awami League.

सीएमपीडीआई मिनी रत्न cmpdi Mini Ratna
सेन्ट्रल माईन प्लानिंग एण्ड डिजाईन इन्स्टीच्यूट लिमिटेड
Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Ltd.)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834008, Jharkhand India

NOTICE

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GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Tender Notice No. 54/2025-26/SE-II/EE-III/DB/GVMC/ Dt: 28-01-2026

01.	No. of Works	: 10 Nos.
02.	Value of works (ECV)	: **Rs.1354.54 Lakhs**
03.	Downloading Starting Date	: 29-01-2026 @ 11.00 P.M.
04.	Downloading End Date	: 12-02-2026 @ 02.00 P.M.
05.	Last date for Submission of bid	: 12-02-2026 @ 03.00 P.M.

Further details at **http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in**
O/o the Executive Engineer (PW-III) Division. **For Commissioner**

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TERM REVISED TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP only)

BESCOM invites tenders through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders for **Procurement of LT Distribution Boxes for 100/250 kVA Distribution Transformers as per Tender Specification, GTP and Drawing. Vide Enquiry No.BESCOM/2025-26/IND0191.**

1) Bid Documents available: 30.01.2026. **2) Last date for Bid Submission:** 02.03.2026, 17:00 Hrs. **3) Opening of Bid Document:** 03.03.2026, 17:15 Hrs.

The Tender Documents can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP Portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP Portal help desk contact numbers (**+91-80460 10000, +91-80689 48777**) or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief General Manager, Ele., Procurement, BESCOM, 2nd Floor, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560 001, Ph.No: 080-22354939.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Himachal Pradesh Power Corporation Limited
(A State Govt. Undertaking)
Himfed Building, BCS, New Shimla, Shimla-171009
Ph: 0177-2670633 (CIN: U40101HP2006SGC030591)

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS
(National Competitive Bidding)
(E-Tender Mode only)

HPPCL invites proposals (RFP) from experienced reputed Consultants/ Consultancy firms/ Bidders through Open Tendering Mode (National Competitive Bidding) for **"Engagement of Project Management Consultant (PMC) for Thana Plaun HEP (191 MW) on river Beas in District, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, India."**

Deadline for Submission of Proposal/Bids: 20-03-2026 up to 11:00 Hrs.
Opening of Technical Proposal/ Bids : 20-03-2026 at 15:00 Hrs
Cost of Bidding/RFP Document : INR 10,000 (Ten Thousand only) (Including GST)

For detailed tender notification, please visit www.hppcl.in or https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPPCL or contact +91 177-2671915, +91 177-2671416 & e-mail: gm_contracts@hppcl.in

Sd/-
General Manager (Civil Contracts)

DEPARTMENT FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF DIFFERENTLY ABLED AND SENIOR CITIZENS
Podium Block, V.V.Tower, Ground Floor, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560 001. Telephone No. 080-22866066, 080-22866046
Email Address: **dirdwdscka@gmail.com, dir-dwds-ka@nic.in**

No: DEDSC/2025-26/IND0124 Dated: 27-01-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement only)

Tender is invited by the Director, Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, under e-Procurement platform/e-portal in two parts (i.e., Technical bid and Financial bid) from the original manufacturers or their authorized dealers for the supply of Talking Laptops with Screen Reader (NVDA) for Visual Impaired Students for the year 2025-26 to the Department for Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens. The intrested bidders may see further details and may login into website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The tender can be submitted on or before **10-02-2026 till 5:00 PM.** The technical bid will be opened on **11-02-2026 at 5:30 PM** and the financial bid will be opened on **13-02-2026 at 04:30 PM**. Department reserves all rights to accept, reject, incorporate changes and re-tender without giving any reasons. For more details contact Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Podium Block, V.V.Tower, 6th floor, Dr. B.R.Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001, Phone No:080-22866066, 28860907. For more info please see department website **www.dwdsc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director,
Department for the Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/5272/Zen/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/T&P/SE-2/2025-26/9271-83 Date:29.01.2026

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works against following enquiry number on **Partial Turnkey basis.**

Enquiry No. and Name of the works
KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT3254
Establishing of following sub-stations along with construction of associated transmission lines (Stage-1) including design of line towers and station structures: a) Establishing 2x200MVA, 220/132kV and 1x20MVA, 132/11kV sub-station at **PM Mitra Textile Park, Kalaburagi** along with construction of associated transmission line for a distance of 1.985km and construction of 2 nos. of 220 kV terminal bays at 400/220 kV Ferozabad (Kalaburagi) sub-station. b) Establishing 2x20MVA, 132/33kV and 2X20MVA, 132/11kV sub-station (Station-1) at **PM Mitra Textile Park at Nadisinnur village** along with construction of associated transmission line for a distance of 1.811km in Kalaburagi Taluk and District. c) Establishing 2x20MVA, 132/33kV and 2X20MVA, 132/11kV sub-station (Station-2) at **PM Mitra Textile Park at Keeranagi village** along with construction of associated transmission line for a distance of 1.114km in Kalaburagi Taluk and District.

The bids will be received through electronic tendering mode only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 02.02.2026 @ 15:00hrs.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids and **any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Electy.,
Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL, Indhana Bhavan, 9th Floor, Bengaluru-560 009

WINNING START

Saim's all-round performance helps Pakistan sink Australia

AP

Saim Ayub (40 and two for 29) produced a superb all-round display to power Pakistan to a 22-run victory against Australia in the first T20I in Lahore on Thursday. **The scores:** Pakistan 168/8 in 20 overs (Saim 40, Agha 39, Zampa 4/24) bt Australia 146/8 in 20 overs (Green 36, Bartlett 34 n.o.). **Toss:** Pakistan; **PoM:** Saim.

LOOKING BACK

'The way we took on the bowlers in the PowerPlay was outstanding'

K.R. DEEPAK

The manner in which we started in the PowerPlay was what India had been doing. The way they took on the bowlers in the PowerPlay was outstanding. (In the fourth T20I) In the middle we lost wickets, but then (the innings was) obviously finished off by Daryl (Mitchell) and (Zak) Foulkes — New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner.

160 AND COUNTING

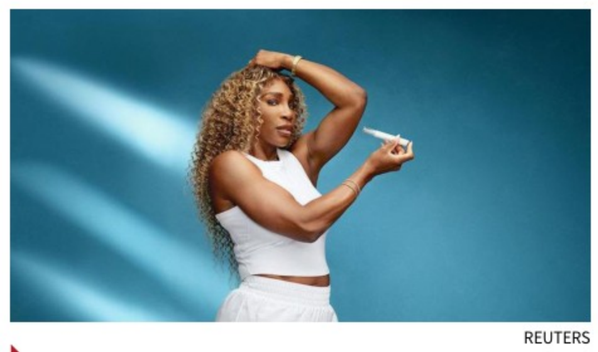
Stirling surpasses Rohit, becomes the most capped T20I player

FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Veteran Irish cricketer Paul Stirling surpassed Rohit Sharma's record for the most capped player in men's T20I cricket when he played his 160th match against the UAE in Dubai on Thursday. The others in top five are Ireland's George Dockrell (153), Afghanistan's Mohammad Nabi (148) and England's Jos Buttler (141).

UNDECIDED

Will see what happens: Serena refuses to rule out return to circuit



REUTERS

Serena Williams has reignited speculation that she could make a return to tennis, refusing to rule it out when asked. She instead replied: "I don't know, I'm just going to see what happens." The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion, who has not competed since the 2022 US Open, added she was having fun and enjoying her life.

After the de Klerk show, Harris and Smriti power RCB into final

The comprehensive eight-wicket victory gives the Bengaluru outfit a direct entry into the title decider; the Warriorz batters falter after a 74-run opening partnership between Deepti and Lanning; Smriti's decision to bowl first justified

WPL-4

Vivek Krishnan
VADODARA

After two straight defeats in the Women's Premier League, Royal Challengers Bengaluru was back to its very best on Thursday. That was largely down to Grace Harris and Nadine de Klerk, who played starring roles to help the Smriti Mandhana-led outfit rout UP Warriorz by eight wickets at the Kotambi Stadium.

The victory means RCB, with 12 points after eight matches, has topped the league phase, and qualified for the final on February 5. Barring a mathematical miracle, Warriorz will be headed for the exit door after the final league fixture against Delhi Capitals on Sunday.

While de Klerk set up the win with a four-for to restrict Warriorz to 143 for eight, Harris' pyrotechnics – 75 off 37 balls (13x4, 2x6) -- helped the 2024 champion knock off the modest target in 13.1 overs. Smriti played her part with an unbeaten 54.

Harris made her intentions clear in the PowerPlay. She took a liking to Kranti Gaud, punishing the 22-year-old seamer for five fours in the third over with a gleeful grin. By the time Warriorz could take a strategic timeout, Harris had contributed 49 to RCB's score of 63 for no loss in six overs. Harris' half-century came off 28 deliveries in the seventh over. The landmark was reached with a touch of flamboyance as Harris sent Asha Sobhana's flighted delivery sailing over long-on.

When Warriorz batted first, they simply couldn't build on an opening alliance of 74 between Deepti Sharma (55, 43b, 6x4, 1x6) and Meg Lanning (41, 30b, 6x4, 1x6). Until de Klerk removed Lanning for the breakthrough in the ninth over, Warriorz seemed to be progressing serenely. The Australian gave herself room with the intention of hitting a full ball inside-out, but could only slice it to Radha Yadav at deep-point.

De Klerk's golden arm yielded a second wicket four deliveries later when Amy Jones was trapped leg-before. That the South African took two more wickets and conceded just six runs in the final over of the Warriorz innings was emblematic of how the evening panned out.

The orchestrators: De Klerk derailed the Warriorz innings before Harris and Smriti steered the Bengaluru side home. X@WPLT20

Today's match

GUJARAT GIANTS vs MUMBAI INDIANS

Vadodara, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 8

GG 0 | MI 8

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

SCOREBOARD

UP WARRIORZ

Meg Lanning c Radha b de Klerk 41 *(30b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Deepti Sharma c de Klerk b Shreyanka 55 *(43b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Amy Jones lbw b de Klerk 1 *(2b)*, Harleen Deol b Harris 14 *(14b, 2x4)*, Chloe Tryon st. Richa b Harris 6 *(7b, 1x4)*, Shweta Sehrawat c Smriti b Bell 7 *(10b)*, Simran Shaikh c Arundhati b de Klerk 10 *(11b, 1x4)*, Sophie Ecclestone lbw b de Klerk 0 *(1b)*, Asha Sobhana (not out) 0 *(1b)*, Shikha Pandey (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-5, w-4): 9; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 143.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-74 (Lanning, 8.1 overs), 2-78 (Jones, 8.5), 3-95 (Harleen, 11.5). 4-103 (Tryon, 13.2), 5-122 (Shweta, 16.1), 6-137 (Deepti, 18.6), 7-138 (Ecclestone, 19.2), 8-143 (Simran, 19.5).

RCB BOWLING

Bell 4-0-21-1, Sayali 2-0-21-0, Shreyanka 4-0-27-1, Arundhati 1-0-14-0, de Klerk 4-0-22-4, Harris 3-0-22-2, Radha 2-0-11-0.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Grace Harris b Shikha 75 *(37b, 13x4, 2x6)*, Smriti Mandhana (not out) 54 *(27b, 8x4, 2x6)*, Georgia Voll c Simran b Asha 16 *(15b, 2x4)*, Richa Ghosh (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (for two wkts. in 13.1 overs): 147.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-108 (Harris, 9.1), 2-143 (Voll, 12.6).

WARRIORZ BOWLING

Kranti 2-0-29-0, Shikha 4-0-36-1, Deepti 2.1-0-28-0, Ecclestone 2-0-14-0, Asha 2-0-24-1, Tryon 1-0-15-0.

Toss: RCB; **PoM:** Harris.

RCB won by eight wickets with 41 balls to spare.

Enhancing skills: Dube feels that he is becoming better and smarter with every match. K.R. DEEPAK

Not just the spinners, I try to hit the pacers as well: Dube

NZ IN INDIA

Anirudh Velamuri
VISAKHAPATNAM

Shivam Dube took apart pace and spin alike on Wednesday in his blistering 65 off just 23 balls in India's unsuccessful 216-run chase against New Zealand in the fourth T20I. His incredible knock instilled faith in a pursuit, in which India had lost four of its most explosive batters by the 9th over.

"It's just my hard work. I'm also getting better with my mindset because I'm batting in such situations. So, I know what's going to happen, and what a bowler might come at me with," Dube said.

"That's the key point for both my batting and bowling. Thanks to Gauti bhai (Gautam Gambhir) and Surya bhai (Suryakumar Yadav), I'm bowling. When you bowl, you become a little smart. I'm working on that as well and trying to develop more skills."

Dube acknowledged that experience has played a significant role in reshaping his approach.

"All players upgrade themselves... I can't be the same as I was. I try to be a little better, and a little smarter in the next game. Working hard in the nets is one thing, but applying it in the match is another."

Dube's prowess against spin makes him a valuable asset to field in the middle overs. While Ish Sodhi's legspin gave him the perfect launchpad to tear into the Kiwis, he insisted that he's working on hammering pacers just the same.

"I always try to hit not just the spinners but the fast bowlers as well. With the kind of cricket we're playing, we know when to attack and when to defend. There was an opportunity when I wanted to attack, and I did."

'Ideal preparatory ground for T20 WC'

Anirudh Velamuri
VISAKHAPATNAM

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner reiterated that the series has provided ideal preparation for the upcoming T20 World Cup, despite some underwhelming results.

"We've got a couple of guys back for the next game, which is nice. It's about getting our plans right, getting the roles sorted for what we've got coming up in the World Cup."

The 33-year-old said his focus remains on bowling defensively, building pressure, and taking wickets.

"You want to be smart; six singles are a good option. We've seen a lot of power hitting and plenty of big scores. I think the role of a spinner (in T20Is), unless there is spin, is to build pressure and get wickets," he said. Santner also sympathised with Ish Sodhi, who endured a tough night after opting to go on the attack.

"If you bowl one in Hardik (Pandya) or Rinku (Singh) or Dube's arc, they're going to take it on. You play the percentages, the match-ups. As a finger spinner, it can be a challenge. If a batter is not picking a wrist spinner, you tell them to be a little more aggressive like Kuldeep (Yadav) or (Ravi) Bishnoi. So, Ish, with his variations, might have tried to be aggressive with the state of the game."

Pakistan unlikely to boycott T20 WC

Decision pending: Pakistan is expected to confirm its participation in the World Cup on Friday. AFP

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has already scheduled its T20 World Cup squad to depart for Colombo early on February 2, virtually ruling out any possibility of boycotting either the tournament or the marquee clash against India on February 15, sources close to the board said on Thursday.

"The PCB has already made travel arrangements for the World Cup squad to leave early morning on February 2 for Colombo," the source revealed.

The source added that PCB had shown its full support to Bangladesh Cricket Board over their "security concerns" in playing in India and could not do anything further without damaging its own position within the ICC.

It is expected that the PCB would confirm its participation on Friday.

"When the PCB Chairman, Mohsin Naqvi, met with Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, he made it clear that all options under consideration should ensure a stable and prosperous future for Pakistan cricket and maintain good relations with the ICC," the source said.

Molineux to succeed Healy

Press Trust of India
SYDNEY

Spin bowling all-rounder Sophie Molineux was on Thursday appointed the Australian women's T20 captain for the series against India next month and will later succeed Alyssa Healy at the helm across formats after the home assignment.

Healy had announced she would retire from international cricket after playing against India.

The squads: T20Is: Sophie Molineux (Capt.), Ashleigh Gardner (Co-Vice Capt.), Tahlia McGrath (Vice Capt.), Darcie Brown, Nicola Carey, Kim Garth, Grace Harris, Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham. **ODIs:** Alyssa Healy (Capt.), Sophie Molineux (Vice Capt.), Darcie Brown, Nicola Carey, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Tahlia McGrath, Ellyse Perry, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham. **Test:** Alyssa Healy (Capt.), Sophie Molineux (Vice Capt.), Darcie Brown, Ashleigh Gardner, Kim Garth, Lucy Hamilton, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, Tahlia McGrath, Ellyse Perry, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.

Sabalenka sets up summit clash with Rybakina

COMPILED BY ANIRUDH VELAMURI

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Belarusian World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka crushed Ukraine's Elina Svitolina in a politically charged Australian Open semifinal on Thursday and faces Elena Rybakina for a third title.

There was no handshake after Sabalenka dismantled 12th seed Svitolina 6-2, 6-3, before Kazakhstan's Rybakina was also a straight-sets winner over Jessica Pegula of the United States.

The ruthless Sabalenka will take some stopping as she pursues a third Melbourne crown in four years. She is on an 11-match win streak this year, having come into the first Major of 2026 on the back of claiming the title in Brisbane.

The hard-hitting 27-year-old is into her fourth Australian Open final in a row and yet to drop a set all year.

Sabalenka and Moscow-born fifth seed Rybakina have met 14 times, with the Belarusian winning eight of them. That includes the Melbourne final in 2023, when Sabalenka fought back to win in three sets.

SEMIFINAL RESULTS

Women: 1-Sabalenka (Blr) bt 12-Svitolina (Ukr) 6-2, 6-3; 5-Rybakina (Kaz) bt 6-Pegula (USA) 6-3, 7-6(7).

Hindrance call

There was controversy at the start of the fourth game. With the match on serve, Sabalenka was hit with a hindrance call from the umpire for grunting, triggering a long video review and boos.

A clearly irritated Sabalenka lost the point but recovered her poise and a break of serve early in the second set to surge home.

Rybakina, was always in control of her semifinal against sixth-seeded Pegula.

But she got nervous at the death, before making her supremacy count in a 6-3, 7-6(7) arm-wrestle over 100 minutes.

Rybakina, who defeated Iga Swiatek in the quarterfinals, has been in sizzling recent form. She beat Sabalenka to win the WTA Finals in November and has won 19 of her last 20 matches.

INBRIEF

Velavan, Chotrani move up in Squash on Fire Open

Reigning men's National champion Velavan Senthilkumar and Veer Chotrani, *in pic*, advanced in the Squash on Fire Open in Washington with hard-fought first-round wins in the PSA Bronze-level event. Velavan rallied to beat England's Tom Walsh 12-14, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6, while Chotrani defeated Hungary's Balazs Farkas 6-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-3. In the women's section, seventh seed Anahat Singh got a first-round bye.

Bengaluru to host International Series golf

The International Series golf will be returning to India with the second edition of the event to be held at the Prestige Golfshire Club, Bengaluru from October 8-11. The series, sanctioned by the Asian Tour, offers a direct pathway to the LIV Golf League and qualification opportunities for the Majors. The 2025 debut edition of the event in India was held at the DLF Course in Gurugram and won by American Ollie Schniederjans. The nine-event season tees off with International Series Japan at Caledonian Golf Club from April 2-5, wrapping up with the PIF Saudi International at the Riyadh Golf Club from November 18-21.

Tharun, Isharani and Devika enter the quarterfinals

Tharun Mannepalli beat Taiwan's Ting Yen-Chen 21-17, 14-21, 24-22 in 78 minutes to enter the quarterfinals at the Thailand Masters Super 300 badminton tournament in Bangkok on Thursday. In women's singles, Isharani Baruah and Devika Sihag made the last-eight stage. While Ishrani overcame Taiwan's Sung Shuo Yun 21-13, 14-21, 21-14, Devika won 21-14, 21-14 against Sung's compatriot Tung Ciou-Tong. All other Indians in action on the day bowed out of the tournament.

Other results (round of 16): Men: Lee Zii Jia (Mas) bt Mithun Manjunath 11-21, 21-16, 21-12; Prahdiska Bagas Shujiwo (Ina) bt Kiran George 21-16, 21-11. **Women:** Karupathevan Letshanna (Mas) bt Shriyanshi Valishetty 21-17, 20-22, 21-19; Huang Yu-Hsun (Tpe) bt Anmol Kharb 10-21, 21-19, 21-19.

Pradipta wins men's elite 10km scratch race

Awang Prana Pradipta of Team Garuda Development won the men's elite 10km scratch race gold on the opening day of the Track Asia Cup, clocking 14:12.466s at an average speed of 42.23kph at the SDAT Cycling Velodrome in the TNPESU campus in Chennai on Thursday. Sahil Kumar (Indian National team) and Julian Abi Manyu (Indonesia) secured silver and bronze, respectively. The UCI Class-2 event was flagged off by Udhayanidhi Stalin, Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, marking the State's first international cycling event of the year. The Asia Cup, which offers world ranking points, features 120 riders from 11 countries.

Former India men's coach Nobbs passes away

Former Australian hockey player Michael Nobbs, who coached the Indian men's team at the 2012 London Olympics, passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 72 and is survived by his wife Lee Capes, a former Australian women's International and daughter Kaitlin. Nobbs represented Australia as a defender, playing across the half-back line and at fullback, and was renowned for his reliability, fitness and professionalism. He earned 76 international caps for Australia between 1979 and 1985, scoring one goal. Nobbs took over the coaching of the Indian men's team in 2011 after it had failed to qualify for the Beijing Games in 2008. India finished last at the London extravaganza which also expedited the Australian coach's sacking.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: JioHotstar, 8.45 a.m.
Men's U-19 World Cup: SS Select 2 & JioHotstar, 1 p.m.
Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 & LIV, 2 p.m.
Champions League: play-off draw, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 4.30 p.m.
Europa League: play-off draw, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 6 p.m.
Sri Lanka vs England: 1st T20I, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7 p.m.
WPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
PWL: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 8 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)
Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Punjab recovers after Karnataka bowlers fail to drive home advantage

Emanjot's unbeaten 77 and his 81-run stand with Goyal boosts the score after the host slumps to 168 for six in spite of a decent start

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
MOHALI

Karnataka stuttered on day one of its final round Ranji Trophy fixture against Punjab, letting the host recover from a precarious 168 for six to reach 303 for nine at stumps.

The visitors, who are third in Elite Group-B with 21 points, need an outright win to ensure qualification for the knockouts without help from other teams. But at the I.S. Bindra PCA Stadium on Thursday, Karnataka did not show the required ruthlessness.

The fact that both sides lined up with spin-heavy attacks and a Shubman Gill-less Punjab opted to bat indicated that the pitch was predominantly dry and that first-innings runs would be crucial.

But apart from leggie Shreyas Gopal (three for 48) and pacer Vidyadhar Patil (three for 46), the rest failed to bowl tight lines for sustained periods. Left-arm spinner Shikhar Shetty's travails were particularly stark, for the 20-year-old sprayed the ball and couldn't capitalise on the moderate amount of turn on offer.

Easy going: Emanjot has batted freely, using his feet well and collecting boundaries at will.
SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

After Prabhsimran Singh fell early, Abhijeet Garg (81, 133b, 8x4, 2x6) and captain Uday Saharan (44, 72b, 6x4, 1x6) put on 102 flawless runs. Garg was compact on the off-side and expansive on the on-side while Saharan came up with an array of beautiful drives.

However, from 108 for one, Punjab slipped to 168 for six.

Offie Mohsin Khan sent back Saharan, before Shreyas grabbed two in two, including the wicket of Anmolpreet Singh, who was foxed by a googly first ball.

Vidyadhar's nagging fourth-stump line fetched the right reward as Anmol Malhotra (25, 46b, 2x4, 1x6) was caught behind.

But 21-year-old Emanjot Singh Chahal (77 batting, 134b, 8x4, 1x6) and Ayush Goyal (23, 82b, 2x4) added 81 runs to resurrect Punjab. The former batted freely, using his feet well and collecting boundaries at will.

A fine stumping from debutant wicket-keeper Kruthik Krishna ended that association but No. 10 batter Sukhdeep Bajwa added 20 runs to further frustrate the away side. Karnataka now needs nothing short of a superlative batting effort.

The scores:

Punjab — 1st innings: Abhijeet Garg c Rahul b Shreyas 81, Prabhsimran Singh c Shikhar b Vidyadhar 5, Uday Saharan c Rahul b Mohsin 44, Jashanpreet Singh c Mohsin b Shreyas 6, Anmolpreet Singh b Shreyas 0, Anmol Malhotra c Kruthik b Vidyadhar 25, Emanjot Singh Chahal (batting) 77, Ayush Goyal st. Kruthik b Mohsin 23, Harpreet Brar c Kruthik b Vidyadhar 9, Sukhdeep Bajwa b Prasidh 20, Anmoljeet Singh (batting) 0; Extras: (lb-12, w-1): 13; Total (for nine wkts. in 91 overs): 303.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-108, 3-119, 4-119, 5-168, 6-168, 7-249, 8-272, 9-309.

Karnataka bowling: Prasidh 14-1-58-1, Vidyadhar 15-4-46-3, Shikhar 15-2-54-0, Mohsin 25-0-85-2, Shreyas 22-6-48-3.

Toss: Punjab.

RANJI TROPHY SCORES — SEVENTH ROUND, DAY ONE

Elite: Group-A: At Sovima: Nagaland 322/6 in 90 overs (Dega Nischal 74, Chetan Bist 160 batting) vs. Andhra. **Toss:** Nagaland. **At Jamshedpur:** Odisha 242/6 in 92 overs (Swastik Samal 79, Govinda Poddar 64) vs. Jharkhand; **Toss:** Odisha. **At Salem:** Baroda 247/5 in 90 overs (Sukirt Pandey 73 batting, Ninad Rathva 66, Atit Sheth 45 batting) vs. Tamil Nadu. **Toss:** Baroda. **At Nagpur:** Uttar Pradesh 237 in 68.5 overs (Dhruv Jurel 96, Shivam Mavi 47, Harsh Dubey 6/63) vs. Vidarbha 33/0 in 12 overs. **Toss:** Uttar Pradesh. **Group-B: At Indore:** Madhya Pradesh 187 in 61 overs (Rajvardhan Hangargekar 5/44) vs. Maharashtra 52/2 in 13.2 overs; **Toss:** MP. **At Chandigarh:** Chandigarh 136 in 42.1 overs (Jaydev Unadkat 4/44) vs. Saurashtra 167/1 in 38 overs (Harvik Desai 80 batting, Jay Gohil 61 batting). **Toss:** Saurashtra. **At Mohali:** Punjab 303/9 in 91 overs (Abhijeet Garg 81, Uday Saharan 44, Emanjot Singh Chahal 77 batting) vs. Karnataka. **Toss:** Punjab. **At Porvorim:** Goa 279/8 in 83.4 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 86, Yash Kasvankar 50, Ankit Sharma 5/88) vs. Kerala; **Toss:** Goa. **Group-C: At Agartala:** Gujarat 267/7 in 89.3 overs (Manan Hingrajia 98 batting, Jaymeet Patel 69, Priyesh Patel 52) vs. Tripura; **Toss:** Tripura. **At Delhi:** Services 174/3 in 55 overs (Anshul Gupta 101 retd. hurt) vs. Railways; **Toss:** Railways. **At Dehradun:** Uttarakhand 279/3 in 76 overs (Bhupen Lalwani 52, Kunal Chandela 128 batting, Lakshya Raichandani 48 batting) vs. Assam. **Toss:** Uttarakhand. **At Rohtak:** Bengal 168/5 in 58 overs (Sudip Chatterjee 78 batting) vs. Haryana. **Toss:** Haryana. **Group-D: At Nadaun:** Himachal Pradesh 168 in 60.1 overs (Pukhraj Mann 77, Akash Vasisht 45, Sunil Kumar 5/55) vs. Jammu & Kashmir 20/0 in 4.5 overs; **Toss:** J&K. **At Hyderabad:** Chhattisgarh 283 in 72.3 overs (Vikalp Tiwari 94, Prateek Yadav 106, Mohammed Siraj 4/56) vs. Hyderabad 56/0 in 15 overs. **Toss:** Chhattisgarh. **At Mumbai:** Delhi 221 in 76.4 overs (Sanat Sangwan 118, Mohit Avasthi 5/62) vs. Mumbai 13/1 in 3 overs; **Toss:** Mumbai. **At Puducherry:** Rajasthan 168 in 61.1 overs (Deepak Choudhary 64, Karan Kannan 5/37) vs. Pondicherry 77/2 in 28 overs (Neyan Shyam Kangayan 41 batting). **Toss:** Rajasthan.

Haryana Thunders into the PWL semifinals

Sports Bureau
NOIDA

Yui Susaki proved her dominance with an 8-3 win over Antim Panghal in the 53kg marquee match of the Pro Wrestling League. She also dropped her first points in the tournament as Haryana Thunders assured itself of the top spot and a semifinal berth with a 6-3 victory against UP Dominators in Match 14 on Wednesday.

Susaki raced to an 8-0 lead before Antim had a look-in towards the end of the opening round. The second was more tactical but Antim's best efforts were not enough. Thunders, with four match wins in five outings, won 29 bouts.

The beginning was the closest Dominators came to upset the table-topper but both Kajal Dhochack (76kg) and Ankush Chandram (57kg) won their respective bouts on last point scored. With the match tied 3-3, Iryna Koliadenko (62kg) won 4-3 against Nisha Dahiya before Anirudh Gulia (125kg) and Parvinder (74kg) sealed full points for Thunders.

The results: Haryana Thunders bt UP Dominators 6-3 [**Men: 57kg:** Ankush Chandram (Thunders) bt Rahul Deswal (Dominators) 4-4 by Last Point Scored; **65kg:** Vishal Kaliraman (Dominators) bt Tumur Ochir Tulga (Thunders) 9-6; **74kg:** Parvinder (Thunders) bt Abhimanyu Mandwal (Dominators) 8-5; **86kg:** Mykhailov Vasyl (Dominators) bt Ashirov Ashraf (Thunders) 5-3; **125kg:** Anirudh Gulia (Thunders) bt Jaspooran Singh (Dominators) 11-5. **Women: 53kg:** Yui Susaki (Thunders) bt Antim Panghal (Dominators) 8-3; **57kg:** Tapsya Gahlawat (Dominators) bt Neha Sangwan (Thunders) 10-3; **62kg:** Iryna Koliadenko (Thunders) bt Nisha Dahiya (Dominators) by Fall; **76kg:** Kajal Dhochak (Thunders) bt Mansi Lather (Dominators) 3-3 by Last Point Scored].

Sireau targeting top-six finish in team sprint at the Asian Games

CYCLING

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

The Indian cycling team's head coach Kevin Sireau has set ambitious but clear targets for Indian track cycling, with the Asian Games and Olympic qualification firmly in focus, and believes the ongoing Track Asia Cup is a crucial starting point in that journey.

"This is the first international event for us," said the Frenchman about the UCI Class-2 Track Cycling event on Thursday.

"It will serve as the first benchmark to check all the gear, and finalise rider positions and team combinations."

Sireau. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

With world ranking points on offer, he stressed that the Chennai event was "not a test event," adding "we have to get a good result from here."

Looking ahead, Sireau identified the Asian Championships (in the Philippines in March) and the Asian Games (in Japan in September and October) as India's "biggest targets" this year.

His aim is clear for the Asian Games: "Minimum top six on the Team Sprint," while also targeting "one or two medals."

The two-time Olympic silver medallist underlined that his long-term mission is qualification for the 2028 LA Games.

"I'm here for that. And on the way to the Olympics, we have different targets, like the Asian Games and the Asian Championships."

Professionalism

Since taking charge of the team two years ago, Sireau has prioritised professionalism, shaping the team's habits and standards.

"It's not magic, it's not fast. They work hard day by day.

"I have tried to improve simple things like team cohesion, and respect for timing – like adhering sharply to the timings for training and sleeping. When you add all these small things, it becomes a big thing," he said.

Arjun crashes to another defeat, Gukesh gets the better of Yagiz

CHESS

Press Trust of India
WIJK AAN ZEE

Arjun Erigaisi could not match the skills of Vincent Keymer of Germany in key moments and crashed to another defeat in the 10th round of Tata Steel Masters here.

World champion D. Gukesh fought his way back into contention, delivering an endgame masterclass against young prodigy Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus.

Playing with black, Gukesh secured another clinical victory to take his tally to a respectable five points out of a possible 10.

With just four points from 10 games, Arjun has plenty of ground to make up merely to stay afloat.

R. Praggnanandhaa settled for a draw with Hans Moke Niemann in a French Defence encounter, a game in which neither player found much scope for complications. Matthias Bluebaum of Germany continued with his great form to beat Anish Giri after defeating Gukesh in the previous round. Jorden van Foreest drew with Javokhir Sindarov as both reached six points.

The results (round 10): Matthias Bluebaum (6) bt Anish Giri (4.5); Hans Moke Niemann (5.5) drew with Praggnanandhaa (4.5); Vincent Keymer (5) bt Arjun Erigaisi (4); Jordan van Foreest (6) drew with Javokhir Sindarov (6); Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus (5.5) lost to D. Gukesh (5).

Manpreet and Pathak 'rested' ahead of the FIH Pro League

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Only a week ago, chief coach Craig Fulton had declared he hadn't seen Manpreet Singh move the way he did during Hockey India League "for a long time." On Thursday, the seniormost Indian player was missing from the 33-member core group of probables for the FIH Pro League next month in Rourkela.

The 33-year old, who co-captained Ranchi Royals to the HIL final, was 'rested' ahead of the first two legs of the Pro League at home and in Australia. Speculations had been rife about his inclusion with reports suggesting that the federation top brass was not too keen on Manpreet (411 international caps) leapfrogging current HI president Dilip Tirkey's record of 412 outings.

But Fulton insisted the decision was part of workload management. "We felt this was the right time to rotate the squad. We've rested a few senior players to manage workload while rewarding performances from players who've earned their opportunity.

"The Pro League legs in Rourkela and Hobart are an important part of selection process as we move towards finalising the World Cup and Asian Games squads," Fulton said.

Manpreet. FILE PHOTO

If reports of Manpreet's name being excluded for processing Schengen visa are true, his inclusion for both the Europe leg of the Pro League and the World Cup is also uncertain. Sources, however, say the decision has more to do with off-field issues. Goalkeeper Krishan Bahadur Pathak was also dropped for a similar reason. .

The list: Goalkeepers: Pawan Malik, Suraj Karkera, Mohith HS, Princedeep Singh; **defenders:** Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Harmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Sumit, PC Boby, Yashdeep Siwach, Nilam Sanjeep Xess, Amandeep Lakra; **midfielders:** Rajinder Singh, Manmeet Singh, Hardik Singh, Rabichandra Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Vishnu Kant Singh, Rajkumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Rosan Kujur; **forwards:** Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Mandeep Singh, Araijeet Singh Hundal, Angad Bir Singh, Uttam Singh, Selvam Karthi, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Maninder Singh.

Liverpool, Man City and Barcelona ease into the pre-quarterfinals

Title-holder PSG, after a stalemate with Newcastle, and record 15-time champion Real, following a shock loss to Benfica, will once again take the circuitous route via the knockout playoffs

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Liverpool, Manchester City and Barcelona booked last-16 places in the Champions League on Wednesday, as holder Paris Saint-Germain and Real Madrid missed out on the top eight.

Liverpool thrashed Qarabag 6-0 in the eighth and final round of league-phase matches to finish third in the 36-team table behind already-qualified Arsenal and Bayern Munich.

They were joined in the last 16 by Tottenham, Barca, Chelsea, Sporting Lisbon and Man City.

But holder PSG will have to go through the knockout play-off round after a 1-1 home draw with Newcastle.

Record 15-time winner Real Madrid also missed out on direct last-16 qualification in a dramatic 4-2 loss at former coach Jose Mourinho's Benfica.

Man City saw off Galatasaray 2-0 at the Etihad to grab eighth place. Barcelona came from behind to beat FC Copenhagen 4-1 at the Camp Nou, finishing fifth in the table. Tottenham beat already-eliminated Eintracht Frankfurt 2-0 in Germany to take fourth.

The results: Ajax 1 (Dolberg 69-pen) lost to Olympiacos 2 (Martins 52, Hezze 79); Arsenal 3 (Gyokeres 3, Havertz 15, Martinelli 36) bt Kairat Almaty 2 (Jorginho 7-pen, Ricardinho 90+3); Athletic Bilbao 2 (Sancet 3, Guruzeta 28) lost to Sporting Lisbon 3 (Diomande 12, Trincao 62, Santos 90+4).

Atletico Madrid 1 (Sorloth 15) lost to Bodo/Glimt 2 (Sjovold 34, Hogh 59); Barcelona 4 (Lewandowski 48, Yamal 60, Raphinha 69-pen, Rashford 85) bt FC Copenhagen 1 (Dadason 4); Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Tillman 12, 35, Grimaldo 57) bt Villarreal 0.

Benfica 4 (Schjelderup 34, 54, Pavlidis 45+5-pen, Trubin 90+8) bt Real Madrid 2 (Mbappe 30, 58); Club Brugge 3 (Diakhon 4, Vermant 11, Stankovic 79) bt Marseille 0; Borussia Dortmund 0 lost to Inter Milan 2 (Dimarco 81, Diouf 90+4).

Eintracht Frankfurt 0 lost to Tottenham 2 (Kolo Muani 47, Solanke 77); Liverpool 6 (Mac Allister 15, 61, Wirtz 21, Salah 50, Ekitike 57, Chiesa 90) bt Qarabag 0; Manchester City 2 (Haaland 11, Cherki 29) bt Galatasaray 0.

Monaco 0 drew with Juventus 0; Napoli 2 (Vergara 33, Hojlund 43) lost to Chelsea 3 (Fernandez 19-pen, Pedro 61, 82); Pafos 4 (Dragomir 17, Bruno 53, Andersen 84, 87) bt Slavia Prague 1 (Chaloupek 44); PSG 1 (Vitinha 8) drew with Newcastle 1 (Willock 45+2).

PSV Eindhoven 1 (Saibari 78) lost to Bayern Munich 2 (Musiala 58, Kane 84); Union Saint-Gilloise 1 (Khalaili 70) bt Atalanta 0.

Stunning header: Goalkeeper Trubin, centre, nods in Benfica's fourth against Real to ensure his team's progress to the playoffs. REUTERS

List of qualified teams
Last 16: Arsenal, Bayern, Liverpool, Tottenham, Barcelona, Chelsea, Sporting Lisbon, Manchester City.
Knockout play-off round: Real Madrid, Inter Milan, PSG, Newcastle, Juventus, Atletico Madrid, Atalanta, Bayer Leverkusen, Borussia Dortmund, Olympiacos, Club Brugge, Galatasaray, Monaco, Qarabag, Bodo/Glimt, Benfica.

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NOTICE

All the tenders issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (B.C.C.L.) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of **B.C.C.L. "www.bcclweb.in"** Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal **"https://coalindiatenders.nic.in"** and Central Public Procurement Portal **"https://eprocure.gov.in"** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **"https://gem.gov.in".** This is applicable to all Open (Domestic / Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

This information is also available on BCCL website www.bcclweb.in

कार्यालय नगर निगम पाली (राज.)
(लालबहादुर शास्त्री टाऊन हॉल, सुरजपोल के पास, पाली, पिनकोड–306401)
टेलीफोन :– 02932–250033 ई–मेल :–cmcpali@yahoo.co.in

क्रमांक प. 15/विद्युत/2025–26/700 दिनांक 23.01.2026

ई–निविदा सूचना

नगर निगम पाली में विद्युत कार्य हेतु ई–निविदा आमंत्रित कि गयी है निविदा सम्बन्धी जानकारी व अन्य शर्ते निगम कार्यालय एवं एवं वेबपार्टल http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पोर्टल व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in के UBN नं DLB2526SLOB31995 के जरीये देखी जा सकती है।

आयुक्त
नगर निगम, पाली

राज.संवाद/सी/25/18696

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH

CORRIGENDUM

Open Tenders of below mentioned drugs are hereby extended till 19.02.2026 upto 12:30PM and the same will be opened on 19.02.2026 at 2:00PM in the Committee Room attached to the office of Medical Superintendent at Nehru Hospital, Ground Floor, PGIMER Chandigarh.

Sr. No.	Name	Tender Enquiry No
1	Tab. Morphine Sulphate 20mg(SP)	PGI/Drugs &Dressing/2025/ PROCD&D001150 Dated: 13.12.2025
2	Inj. Cefuroxime 1.5gm/vial	PGI/Drugs &Dressing/2026/ ProcD&D000009 Dated 07.01.2026
3	Desflurane 240ml bottle	PGI/Drugs &Dressing/2026/ ProcD&D000026 Dated 09.01.2026
4	Sodium Bicarbonate 7.5/8.4% 25ml amp	PGI/Drugs &Dressing/2026/ ProcD&D000023 Dated: 09.01.2026
5	Inj. Dexamethasone Intravitreal Implant 0.7mg	PGI/Drugs &Dressing/2026/ ProcD&D000035 Dated: 13.01.2026
6	Sevoflurane IP/USP Inhalation 250ml bottle	PGI/Drugs &Dressing/2026/ ProcD&D000034 Dated:13.01.2026

PGI/RC/Advt./2026/HR-0059 Officer In-charge (HPD), Proc. Drugs & Dressing

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252613 007188	Procurement of WPCC (Wet Precipitated Calcium Carbonate) - 20%	11.02.2026
252613 007231	Procurement of Surface Liquid OBA for PM# 1 & 3	12 .02.2026
252613 007222	TNPL Copier A4 - 70 GSM, 75 GSM & 80 GSM 10 Reams Carton Lid and Tray.	11.02.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/531/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC),
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
DEVANAHALLI, KARNATAKA-562164, PH: 080-29916308

e-Tender Notice No.: HSFC/CMG/2(10)/Mech/166/2025-26 Date: 29.01.2026

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

On behalf of the President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

Title of work	**Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Motorised Steel Sliding Doors for Integration and Checkout Facility (ICF), HSFC at Devanahalli.**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 228.83 Lakhs**
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**(10) Ten months**
Period during which the tender documents can be requested	From: **11:00 Hrs on 30.01.2026 to 23:30 Hrs on 22.02.2026**
Period during which the tender documents can be downloaded	From: **11:10 Hrs on 30.01.2026 to 23:59 Hrs on 22.02.2026**
Bid clarifications	From: **11.30 Hrs on 30.01.2026 to 10:30 Hrs on 23.02.2026**
Reply to Bid clarification	**Up to 17:00 Hrs on 24.02.2026**
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 10:30 Hrs on 25.02.2026**
Due date & time of opening of tenders (Technical Bid)	**11:00 Hrs on 25.02.2026**
Earnest Money Deposit EMD	**Rs. 4,57,660/-**

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer Detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) from website: **www.isro.gov.in** for further details and Purchase of tender documents visit **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Head CMD, CMG, HSFC.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC),
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
DEVANAHALLI, KARNATAKA-562164, PH: 080-29916308

e-Tender Notice No.: HSFC/CMG/2(10)/Mech/165/2025-26 Date: 29.01.2026

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

On behalf of the President of India, online item rate tenders are invited through E-tendering for the following work.

Title of work	**Design, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of EOT Cranes for Integration and Checkout Facility (ICF), HSFC at Devanahalli.**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 394.22 Lakhs**
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**(10) Ten months**
Period during which the tender documents can be requested	From: **11:00 Hrs on 30.01.2026 to 23:30 Hrs on 22.02.2026**
Period during which the tender documents can be downloaded	From: **11:10 Hrs on 30.01.2026 to 23:59 Hrs on 22.02.2026**
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Last date & time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 10:30 Hrs on 25.02.2026**
Due date & time of opening of tenders (Technical Bid)	**11:00 Hrs on 25.02.2026**
Earnest Money Deposit EMD	**Rs. 7,88,440/-**

For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer Detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting E-Tender (E-NIT) from website: **www.isro.gov.in** for further details and Purchase of tender documents visit **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Head CMD, CMG, HSFC.

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Keynote address by
Shri P A Mohamed Riyas
Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Dept. and Tourism, Govt. of Kerala

Day 1 Day 2

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Day 02: **https://newsth.live/KFALSDT**

Event Location: **Kochi**

DAY 1 — January 31, 2026

10:30 am - 11:00 am
Welcome Address by Suresh Nambath, Editor, The Hindu
Keynote Address by Shri P A Mohamed Riyas, Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Dept. and Tourism, Govt. of Kerala

11:00 am - 11:50 am
What Makes Tourism Truly Inclusive
Akash Hingorani & Keshav Suri
in conversation with Soma Basu

11:50 am - 12:40 pm
Kerala's Responsible Tourism Legacy
Rupeshkumar K, Mini Sukumar & Soity Banerjee
in conversation with S Anandan

12:40 pm - 1:10 pm
Accessible and Inclusive Reflections (AIR) from Global Best Practices for Tourism
Presentation by Gaurav Raheja

1:10 pm - 2:10 pm
Lunch

2:10 pm - 3:00 pm
Voices from the Road: Lived Realities of Diverse Travellers
Joby Mathew, Divyanshu Ganatra & Ekta Bhyan
in conversation with Vijaya Kumar K C

3:00 pm - 3:20 pm
The Role of Industries in Advancing Inclusive and Accessible Tourism in Kerala
Special Address by Shri P Rajeev, Hon'ble Minister for Law and Industries, Govt of Kerala

3:20 pm - 4:10 pm
Integrated Inclusive Tourism: Economic Impact, Community Participation and Policy Synergy
Mini Sukumar & D Dhanuraj
in conversation with Vijaya Kumar K C

4:10 pm - 5:00 pm
Accessibility First: Designing Tourism without Barriers (A Broader View on Accessibility)
Priyanjali Prabhakaran, K J Sohan & Kavita Murugkar
in conversation with S Anandan

5:00 pm - 5:40 pm
Integrating Accessibility and Inclusion into Sustainable Tourism: Challenges, Gaps, and the Way Forward
Neha Arora in conversation with Soma Basu

5:40 pm - 6:30 pm
Designing Accessible Spaces: Infrastructure, Transport and Public Areas
Manoj Kumar Kini, Biju Kuriakose & Sheetal Uday Harpale
in conversation with Vijaya Kumar K C

6:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Shinkari Melam by Team Poombatta
Performance by Kerala's first inclusive percussion ensemble

DAY 2 — February 1, 2026

11:00 am - 12:30 pm
Inaugural Address by Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala
Special Address by N Ram, Director, The Hindu Group

12:30 pm - 1:20 pm
Vision Kerala for All: Shaping the Future of Kerala Tourism
Suman Billa IAS & Biju K IAS
in conversation with S Anandan

1:20 pm - 2:20 pm
Lunch

2:20 pm - 3:00 pm
Seeing Travel Differently: Navigating the World without Sight
Tiffany Brar in conversation with Vijaya Kumar K C

3:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Accessibility Isn't Charity, It's India's USD 1 Trillion GDP Booster
Presentation by Sminu Jindal

3:30 pm - 4:20 pm
Gender Inclusivity at the Heart of Tourism
Sikha Surendran IAS, Dr Peeja Rajan, Monolita Chatterjee & Soity Banerjee
in conversation with Saraswathy Nagarajan

4:20 pm - 4:50 pm
Inclusive Tourism through a Neurodiverse Lens
Presentation by Najmul Melath & Sivadas A K

4:50 pm - 5:40 pm
International Spotlight: How Leading Countries Built Accessible Tourism Circuits
Chironjit Ganguly & Priyantha Peiris
in conversation with Varghese K George

5:40 pm - 6:30 pm
Digital and Tech Innovation in Inclusive and Accessible Tourism
Anoop Ambika, Saidarshan Bhagat & Robin Tommy
in conversation with Soma Basu

6:30 pm - 7:20 pm
Accessible Hospitality: Rethinking Hotels, Resorts and Public Venues
Ganga Dileep, Jose Dominic & Dileep Kumar P I
in conversation with Saraswathy Nagarajan

Knowledge Partner: Svayam Celebrating Accessibility

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